PCOM

Georgia Campus

Synapsis
2009

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Georgia Campus

Mission Statement

The mission of the Georgia Campus Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine class of 2009 is to work in unity within our PCOM family to foster an environment conducive to academic, personal and professional growth. We will strive to propagate the visions of our predecessors while delivering the highest quality of healthcare. We dedicate ourselves to becoming diligent, ethical, empathetic physicians who will represent the osteopathic medical profession with integrity through community service, education and research.

A message from President Schure...

PHILADELPHIA · COLLEGE · OF · OSTEOPATHIC · MEDICINE

PCOM

MATTHEW SCHURE, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
215-871-6800
215-871-6814 FAX
mschure@pcom.edu E-MAIL

May 2009

Dear Class of 2009:

No words are adequate to describe the pride we feel in your extraordinary accomplishments. The entire PCOM community, therefore, joins me in extending heartfelt congratulations to you – GA-PCOM's 1st osteopathic medical graduating class. It has been a great privilege walking life's journey with you.

Your osteopathic medical education will provide you with the greatest gift human existence has to offer - the knowledge that the lives of others have been made brighter by virtue of your presence in them. Please join me in thanking those who made your education possible – the faculty, staff, administration, and fellow students of PCOM, your families, and friends.

As you touch mind, body, and spirit to promote healing in others, I hope that your life will be filled with joy and purpose. Please know that you will always be part of the PCOM Family. We hope you will stay in touch, and look forward to sharing many successes with you in the years ahead. Each of these successes will add to the record of achievement in fulfilling PCOM's teaching, research and healing missions. With each new success, you will create new opportunities for the wonderful PCOM students who succeed you.

We wish you all the best, always.

With warmest regards,

Matthew Schure, Ph.D.
President

MS/lml

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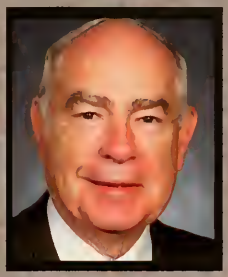
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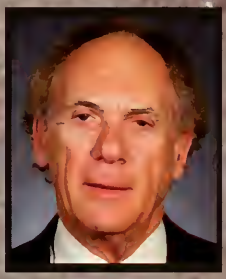
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Nicolas C. Pedano, D.O., '61

Wayne T. Sikes

Ruth Thornton, Ph.D.
Faculty Representative

Murray Zedeck, D.O., '62

A message from Dean Evans...

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To the graduating Class of 2009

We are proud of each and every one of our members of the inaugural class. As the founding dean I take special pleasure in your graduation. You are making personal history in your earning the DO (Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine) degree. You are also changing the culture and the impact on the medical education community for PCOM and osteopathic medicine in Georgia, the South, and the nation. You will leave a lastingly positive mark on our institution in helping us grow and in guiding our faculty and your fellow students in developing strategies for learning that really work. Those that come after you are already benefiting from your advice.

Completing your educational journey was one of the most difficult challenges you have ever faced. It started with your uncertainty as a premedical student applying for admission. You offered trust in our faculty and administration as we launched a brand new school. You endured long but mostly satisfying hours of study for courses, board exams, and clerkships. Your class made many adjustments in traveling to different hospitals and clinical sites through the clerkship years. You made career choices and planned visits to pick programs for the residency match, and are now preparing to move to complete graduate medical education. All have been landmarks on the path you have chosen to continue your life-long-learning as an osteopathic physician.

We do not achieve this success alone. Many people helped along the way including your spouses, family, and friends. Let them know you appreciated what they did to support you along the way.

Graduation is called "commencement" since it marks the beginning of your career as an osteopathic physician. We know you have been given the tools for success. From now on you will be an ambassador representing Georgia Campus PCOM, the century old reputation of PCOM, and the entire osteopathic profession in all you do. I am confident you will take this responsibility seriously.

As our alumni, you will always be welcome here. We encourage you to maintain contacts with classmates, faculty and staff. Facilitating your success is our life's work and we will celebrate your achievements with you.

All of us at GA-PCOM wish you a bright and rewarding future! Congratulations!

Sincerely,

P. Evans D.O.

Paul Evans DO, FAAFP, FACOFP
Dean and Chief Academic Officer
Georgia Campus Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Administrative Assistant

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and Cell Biology

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Mechanic

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Professor of Biochemistry

Laurel Wike,
Research Lab Technician

Linda Williams,
Administrative Assistant,
Basic Sciences

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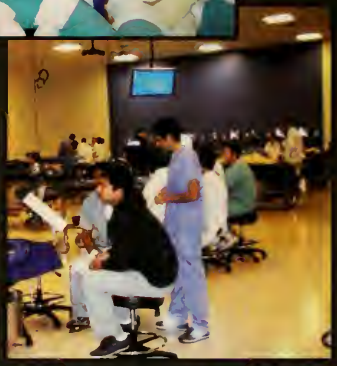
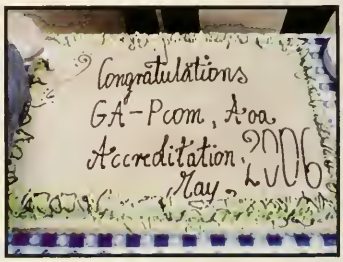


Accreditation

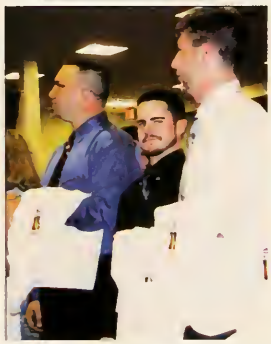
May 2006

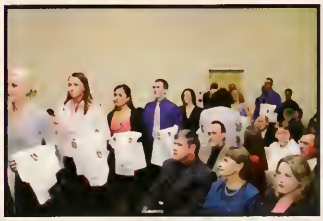


White Coat Ceremony

"I do hereby affirm my loyalty to the profession I am about to enter. I will strive to apply my skills only with the utmost respect for the well-being of humanity; being ever vigilant in aiding the general welfare of the community, sustaining it's laws and institutions, and not engaging in those practices which will in any way bring shame or discredit upon myself or my profession; I will endeavor to work in accord with my colleagues in a spirit of progressive cooperation and never by word or by act cast imputations upon them; I will not permit considerations of nationality, politics, prejudice or material advancement to intervene between my work and this duty to present and future generations; I vow to practice my profession with conscience and dignity; In the presence of this gathering I bind myself to this oath, making it solemnly, freely and upon my honor."

-Oath of Commitment





Student Government Association

Inaugural Student Government August 2005 - February 2006

ROBERT HALES
PRESIDENT

NACEME AZIZZADEH
VICE PRESIDENT

ANAND RAJANI
TREASURER

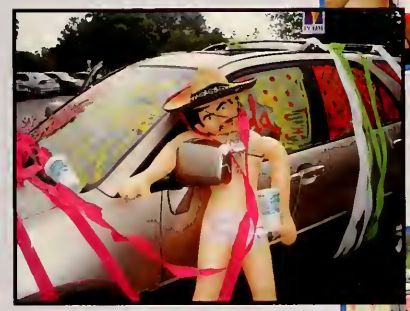
LIZ BRADLEY
SECRETARY

Student Government Association March 2006 - April 2007

President: Naceme Azizzadeh
1st Vice-President: Samvid Dwivedi
2nd Vice-President: Sean Stuart

Parlaimentarian: Brad Abrahams
Treasurer: Anand Rajani
Recording Secretary: Nazia Bandukwala
Corresponding Secretary: Rina Patel

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL SGA COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THEIR HARD WORK OVER THE YEARS:



Chair:
Crystal Bujold

Members:
Brad Abrahams
Samvid Dwivedi
Shane Huch
Kiley Kolb
David Rundell
Rajiv Sood
Katina Tsagaris

Ethics

Chairs:
Kahtonna Allen '05-'06
Joshua Stephens '06-'07

Members:
Brian Anderson
Kristine Favila
Bryan Harrell
Jayna Patel
Trupti Patel
Steven Pinckney
Sabrina Sumner

Social

Chair:
Brendan Griffis

Members:
Tamika Carter
Kristine Favila
Trupti Patel
Sean Stuart

P.L.A.Y. club

Students participate in P.L.A.Y's annual heart health education program at one of the local elementary schools.

P.LA.Y. (PCOM learning about youngsters) was founded in 2005 whose mission was to serve the community with a focus on the pediatric population. We have been extremely active since 2005 both on campus and in the community sponsoring events such as the Heart health presentation at Corley Elementary School, Tar Wars, a smoking education program for children, and Thanksgiving and Christmas charity projects. I am confident that this club will continue to flourish and set precedents for other clubs and organizations on campus.

- Tiffany Sanders
Co-president

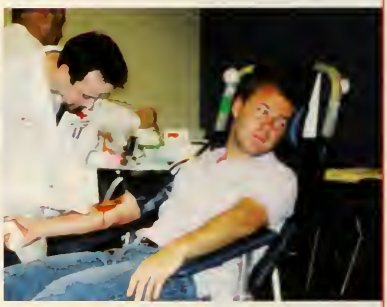
GEORGIA CAMPUS PCOM

EMERGENCY MEDICINE CLUB

"When Every Second Counts"

The founding President Charles Ussery and Vice President, Brian Weingart, met for the first time during school orientation and immediately began to discuss their past experience in Emergency Medical Services prior to medical school. They were both excited about the field of emergency medicine and pledged to start an interest group on campus after the first semester. True to their word they worked with the ACOEP National Student Chapter to form a constitution and elect their first panel of founding club officers. Charles and Brian were joined by Samvid Dwivedi and Amy Gessford as treasurer and secretary to lead the club during its first year. As plans were revealed for CPR courses, lectures and guest speakers membership grew to one of the largest clubs on campus. The first year proved to be great as Dr. Quinn Holtzheimer, the Chief Resident from University of South Florida, kicked off the clubs guest speaker roster. Shortly there after Charles Ussery started the lectures with a Basic Life Support course and an "Introduction to Responding to Emergencies" lecture. The club also had an opportunity to focus on the community by promoting a blood drive on campus promoted by the newly elected secretary Rajiv Sood. The main event was the very popular "Emergency Airway Course" in which members trained in both lecture and hands-on labs in the management of emergent airways, including pharmacology, intubation and a pig trachea lab. This event was a huge undertaking by the club, but had great support by the school faculty and students and still talked about today. The officers from the Class of 2009 handed off one of the most popular clubs on campus to the newly elected member and excited to see it continued to grow and promote Emergency Medicine with exciting activities and speakers.

Pain Management Club



We established a club to increase the awareness of various sub-specialties and modalities for treating the diverse aspects of rehabilitation and chronic pain, including Physical Medicine, Neurology, Anesthesiology, Psychiatry, and Sports Medicine. We organized a series of speakers including physiatrists, Dr. Kenneth Stewart and Dr. Steve Lovel, and Emory PM&R fellows. We established our school's contact with Dr. Kenneth Stewart, a pediatric anesthesiologist at Emory, who became our club advisor and now lectures at the school.

Students volunteered at Shepperd's Spinal Clinic in Atlanta Georgia, where they assisted with patient feedings, MS-aquatic therapy and treadmill assisted gait. Together with the ER club, we organized an advanced airway course. The class consisted of practicing intubation on models, tracheostomies on pig tracheas, and attending lectures discussing the pharmacological procedure for intubation. Additionally, we established Red Cross blood drives.

- Rajiv Sood

CMDA

The Christian Medical & Dental Association (CMDA) is a national organization that provides resources, networking opportunities, education, and a public voice for Christian healthcare professionals and students. The GA-PCOM chapter was started midway through the 2005-2006 school year and included approximately 15 active members from the 2009 class.

During the first two years, CMDA held weekly lunch meetings that included prayer, song and scripture intended to keep fellow Christians focused on God despite the demands of medical school.

CMDA was also involved in ongoing Bible studies, mission trips to South and Central America, along with service projects and outreach to classmates.

We were blessed with an inspirational CMDA area director, Brian Fox, who was instrumental in the success of the CMDA at GA-PCOM along with other chapters at Emory and Morehouse. The time that Brian spent with us each week was special and helped many of us grow closer to God. Everyone involved in CMDA was blessed to have such a supportive group of fellow Christians during one of the most challenging periods of our lives. Our fellowship with other believers influenced our views on medicine and ultimately influenced many of our career paths.

-Brent Clower

Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy

The Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy (UAAO) is organized by students of accredited U.S. osteopathic medical colleges under the auspices and guidance of the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) for the purpose of preserving and further developing osteopathic principles and practice.

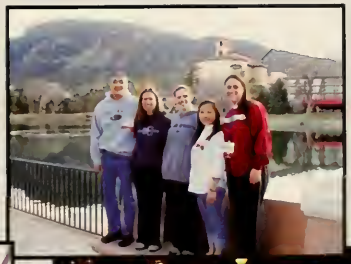
The objectives of the UAAO are for its membership to acquire a better understanding of osteopathic principles and practice, to attain a maximum efficiency in osteopathic structural diagnosis and manipulative treatment, and to foster, in themselves and in others, a clear concept of the clinical application of osteopathic principles and practice in health and disease. Membership serves to broaden and expand a students' understanding of the osteopathic concepts in practice.

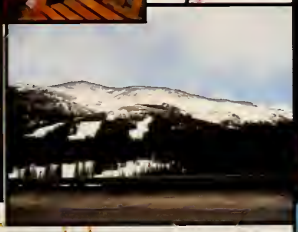
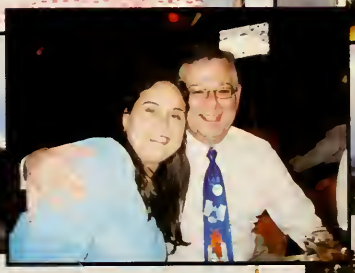
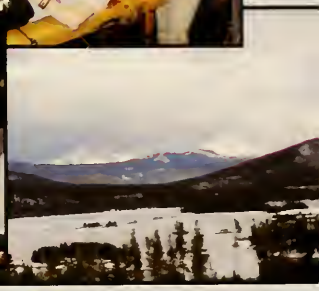
The club was founded at GA-PCOM in the fall of 2005 under the guidance of Dr. Walter Ehrenfeuchter. Officers were selected randomly by drawing out of a deck of cards. The King was the president (Debbie Byork), Queen – vice president, etc. Luckily, the spring 2006 annual convocation was held in Birmingham, AL, which was a quick drive away. A handful of students attended and took advantage of the educational seminars and hands-on workshops (especially "Evening with the Stars"). We caught a small glimpse of the closeness of the osteopathic community and learned from the leading osteopathic physicians in the world.

The Convocation in Birmingham jump-started the excitement for the club and new officers were elected quickly upon our return.

- Karen Hieb-Duvall
Vice-president

Birmingham, AL



Colorado Springs, CO

Sports Club

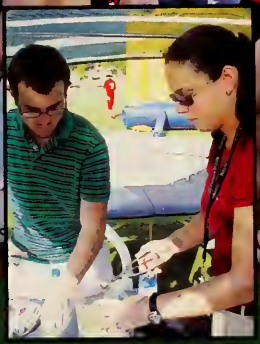
Basketball

Volleyball

Softball

SCUBA diving

Suwanee 5k Race



Internal Medicine Club

The Georgia Campus - Internal Medicine Club was founded in the fall of 2006 by Corey Brown and Chinyelu Onyeka. The purpose of the club is to educate its members about the field of internal Medicine and its sub-specialties, and exploring the many opportunities available in this field.

While educating the members, we also participated in some community service including walking and raising funds for the 2006 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, Clothes drive for the American Kidney Fund, and sponsored a disadvantaged family for thanksgiving.

- Chi-Chi Onyeka
Co-President

Student Osteopathic Surgical Association

A little history...

The Surgery Club was established when several medical students, Josh Hare and Russ Churchwell, realized they had similar interests and wanted to learn more about the field of surgery. Early 2006 the club became official with the support of the Student Osteopathic Surgical Association (SOSA) and GA-PCOM Student Government Association. The club began with periodic meetings, luncheons, guest speakers, and suture clinics. Guest speakers were from multiple specialties including: general surgery, orthopedic surgery, pediatric surgery, and many more. GA-PCOM's Surgery Club was first represented at the Spring SOSA conference in April 2006 by its founders and first officers. This conference provided educational and networking opportunities that put GA-PCOM on the map among osteopathic schools. Every SOSA conference since has been well represented by GA-PCOM Surgery Club members. The torch was passed to the next class in April 2007.

-Jessica Rogers
Secretary of Surgery Club

SOMA

GA-PCOM

The American Osteopathic Association recognizes the Student Osteopathic Medical Association as the National Professional Society for osteopathic medical students. With over 7500 members, SOMA is the largest osteopathic medical student organization. In addition to providing valuable programs, benefits, leadership and community service opportunities, membership in SOMA offers students a legitimate voice in shaping the future of our profession. SOMA also serves as a means of communication amongst the growing population of osteopathic medical schools.

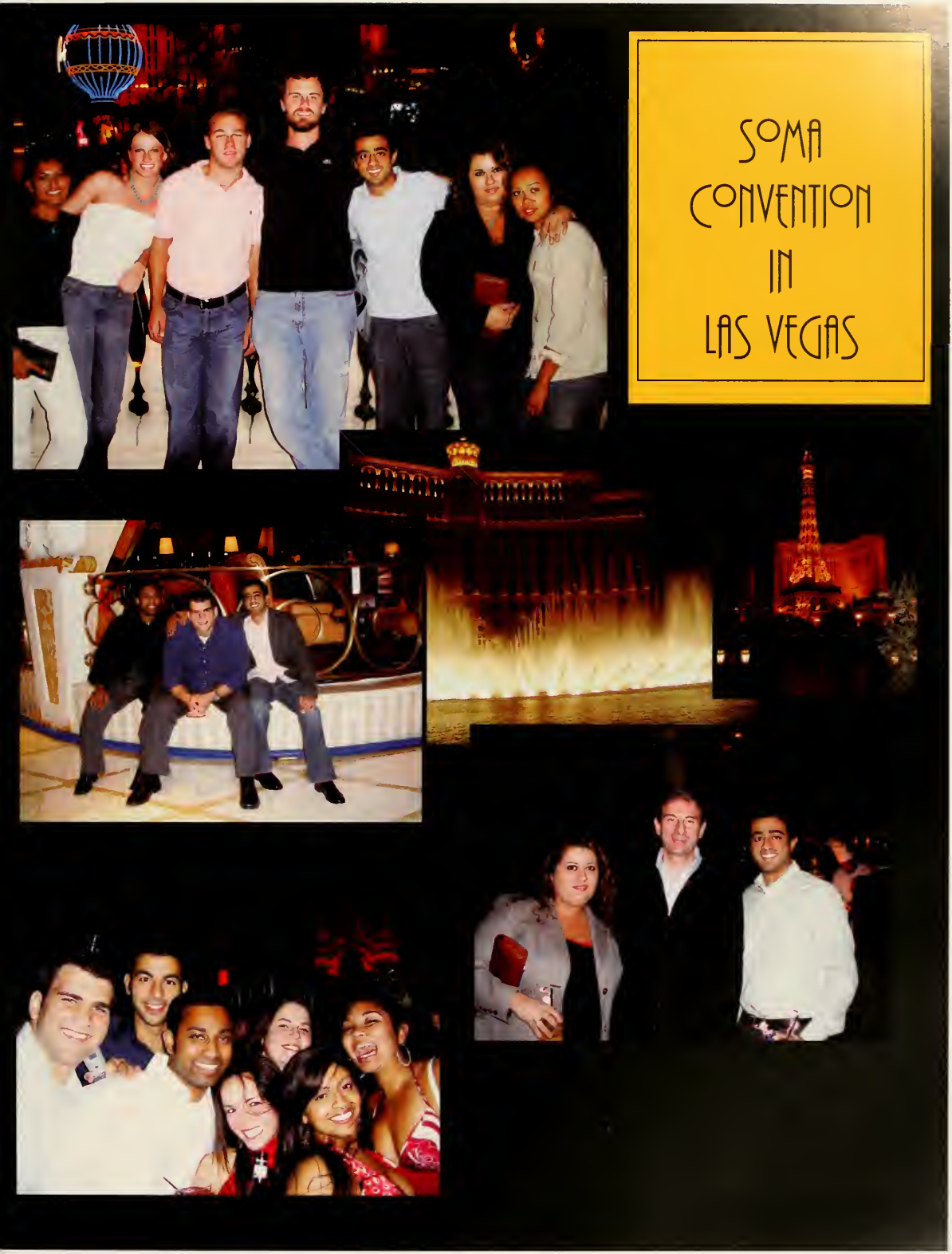
The GA-PCOM chapter of SOMA has made a name for itself in its short lifespan. Able to call itself a Chapter of Excellence, as awarded by the National SOMA organization in Spring 2006, the GA-PCOM chapter continues to expand and improve. Our chapter continues to participate in both SOMA and AOA National Conventions, GOMA State Conventions, and recorded the largest showing of students at the annual D.O. Day on Capitol Hill in 2009.

GA-PCOM SOMA participates in multiple community service projects and fundraisers each year including Adopt-A-Road, SOMA Unity Projects, Hosea Feed the World Food Drives, World AIDS Day and the Annual Old Peachtree 5K Road Race, just to name a few. SOMA also plays host to multiple 'Lunch and Learn' educational opportunities throughout the year for its members, as well as hosting presentations by the AOA President. Lastly, SOMA continues to host 'Osteoblast'- a welcome party for new students at GA-PCOM at the end of orientation week.

--Adam Justice, SOMA President

Adopt a Road

Osteoblast


SOMA
CONVENTION
IN
LAS VEGAS

On our way to D.C.

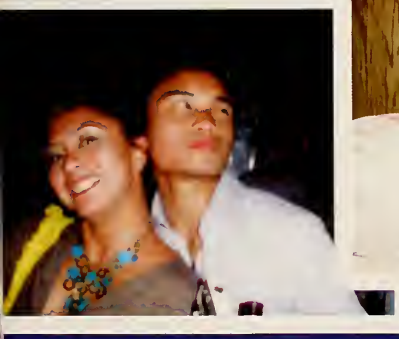
Students ventured to Washington D.C. in April 2005 to participate in D.O. Day on the Hill and the National SOMA Convention.

D.O. Day on the Hill is a day reserved for Osteopathic medical students and physicians to discuss health care issues and policies with their respective congressmen and senators. This trip was the first time we represented PCOM's Georgia Campus on a National level.

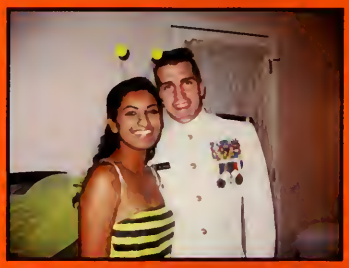
National Institutes of Health
Naval Medical Center

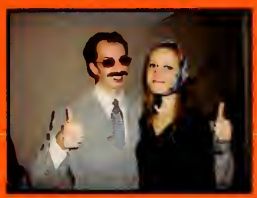
GEORGIA

AFTER A BUSY DAY OF POLITICS



HALLOWEEN AT CAPCOM





1st Annual Holiday Luncheon

GA-PCOM Ski Trip 2006

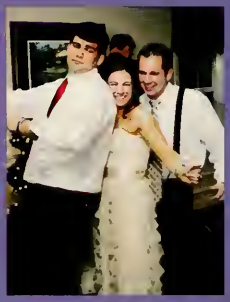
Sugar Mountain, NC

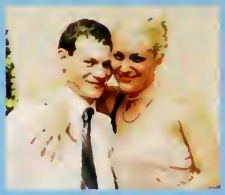
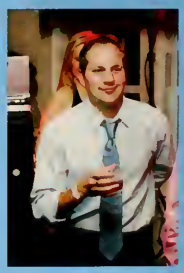
In the winter of 2006 GA-PCOM students traveled to Sugar Mountain in North Carolina to hit the slopes...

...cars in ditches, torn ACLs, stolen skis and a weekend full of fun...

Winter Semi-formal 2005

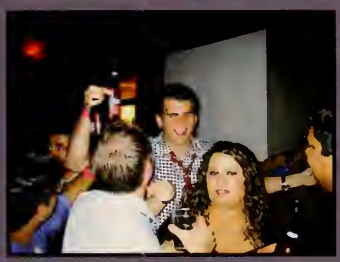
Collins Hill Country Club

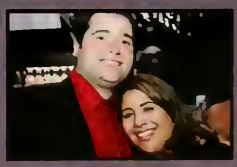


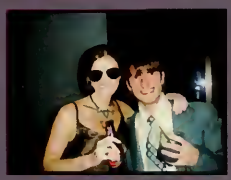



Spiral Groove 2006

The W Atlanta at Perimeter

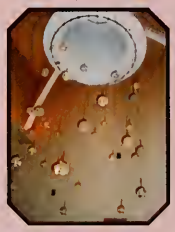






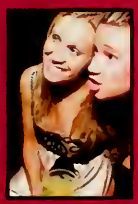
WINTER SEMI-FORMAL 2006

ARMAAN



Spring 2007
Formal & Awards Banquet

The Crown Plaza Palma at Perimeter



Medical Mission Trips

Tela, Honduras

GA-PCOM students attended to patients under the supervision of physicians, assisted in surgical procedures, and shadowed physicians in a variety of specialties. Each day we had two teams in action: the surgery team at the hospital and a second team at the primary care clinic, which also included a pharmacy and dental and reading glass clinics. While the hospital in Tela is rather new and modern, it is not adequately staffed. The hospital director was very eager to offer our surgical team whatever resources she had. Therefore, our surgical team had full use of both of the hospital's operating rooms for the entire week. The team was able to do double the number of procedures anticipated.

At the primary care clinic, the doctors and students had many opportunities to pray with patients and share the gospel. The local pastors' association made sure that we were well staffed with translators and helpers, so the language barrier was rarely an issue. One day, several of our staff went to a local prison to care for the inmates. We were also able to set up a dental clinic at the prison, which proved to be much needed. Both of these opportunities were great times of learning what it really means to serve the "least of these." Over the course of the working week, it was estimated that over 1000 patients were seen in our clinic.

- Steven Pinckney

Pampachiri, Peru

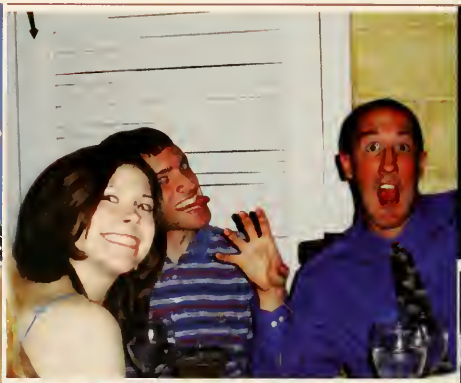
On June 3-12, 2006, a group of 30 medical students, doctors, nurses, translators and helpers flew to Peru for a medical mission trip, organized by Grace Fellowship Church. After flying to Lima, taking a hopper plane to Andahuaylas, and riding a bus for four hours on dirt roads, we arrived in Pampachiri, Peru, set high in the Andes Mountains at 12,000 feet. We set up our medical clinic in a building actually built through the support of USAID. We treated 926 patients in 4 ½ days; this breaks down to approximately 500+ adults and 350+ children. We filled over 2000 prescriptions in our pharmacy. The Peruvian dental team that worked with us in the clinic saw 349 patients. Many patients walked 7-8 hours to the clinic or rode on horseback 3-4 hours to get to the clinic; it was amazing how much these people endured in order to see our medical team.

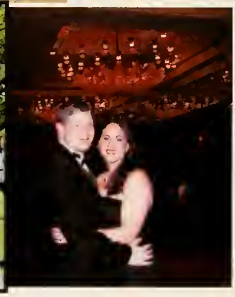
-Steven Pinckney

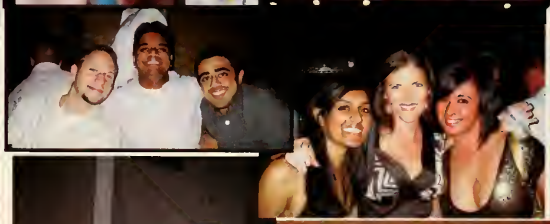
We worked long days at the clinic. During our off time, we ate the food prepared by the Quechua women and rested. We lived as the Quechua people did, eating starchy foods with little meat and occasional fruits and vegetables. We slept on hard wood floors, had one working toilet and did not shower for the week because the water was extremely cold . We wore multiple layers of clothing, including long-johns day and night to stay warm.

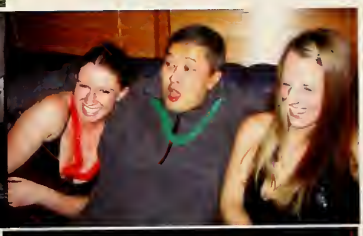
Overall, it was a very challenging experience that stretched me beyond my comfort zone. It gave me a great appreciation of America and the daily amenities we enjoy. God has truly blessed our country and my experiences outside our borders reiterate this blessing to me. I am thankful for such an opportunity to grow spiritually and mentally and continue to pray for the health, wellness, and salvation of the people of Pampichiri.

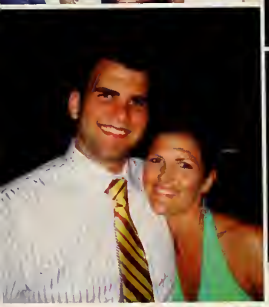
-Karen Hieb-Duvall

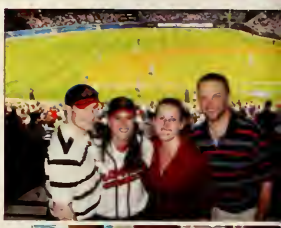


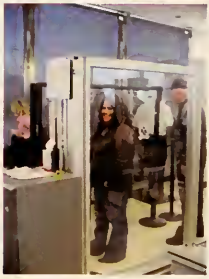


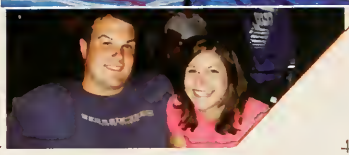












A Message From the SGA President...

GEORGIA CAMPUS

PCOM

PHILADELPHIA · COLLEGE · OF · OSTEOPATHIC · MEDICINE

Dear Classmates,

It is a pleasure and a continued honor to have served as your student government president. I honestly cannot believe that the day has arrived to sit and write you this letter. As graduation day approaches we become increasingly excited for the journey ahead, but we must not let it overshadow the road that led us to where we are today. It seems hard to imagine that just four years ago we all were united in Suwanee, Georgia to embark on our medical education. Our backgrounds, experiences, and life stories were all unique in their own way, but as we walked into PCOM's Georgia campus for the first time we did not realize that at that moment our paths had merged. Our ambitions united us and afforded us an experience like no other.

As the inaugural class our story is distinctive. We joined a school rich with history but as a new branch campus were provided an empty canvas that we would make our own. We established organizations, student government and created a culture for our school. We attended the first lecture, took the first test, and were the first students to receive our white coats. Before we could even realize it, we made lifelong friendships and memories that will never be forgotten. By virtue of being the first class, our path taken was not easy. Often times, when most students could look at those ahead for advice or ease we could only turn to each other. We learned to embrace the responsibilities of serving as the inaugural class and strengthened our character through the process.

Now that this experience is coming to an end, our common paths will become distinct and will lead us to the next phase of our lives. I am truly honored to have shared these years with you and congratulate you on your success and accomplishments. I wish for all of you true happiness in your lives and careers and look forward to being your future colleague

Best Wishes,

Naceme Azizzadeh

Naceme Azizzadeh

GA-PCOM Class of 2009

625 OLD PEACHTREE ROAD NW · SUWANEE · GEORGIA 30024-2937 · www.pcom.edu

A Message From the Class Chair...

GEORGIA CAMPUS
PCOM

PHILADELPHIA · COLLEGE · OF · OSTEOPATHIC · MEDICINE

To my classmates,

When we met four years ago, nervous and anxious, little did we know of the great challenges lying ahead: we have shivered together over cadavers in the cold anatomy lab in our first year, commiserated over pharmacology in second year and shared stories from clerkships the last two years. During this we encouraged each other to rise to even higher levels of excellence with each passing obstacle. As the founding class, our accomplishments have been many and will remain a part of GA-PCOM history.

As the pioneering class of this school, our efforts will pave the road for those that follow. No one else will ever have to walk in our shoes. I consider our class as one with strong values and undeniable will. I believe this spirit will be carried with each one of us into our years of residency. I look forward to hearing about all of our accomplishments.

Most Sincerely,

Trupti Patel

Trupti Patel

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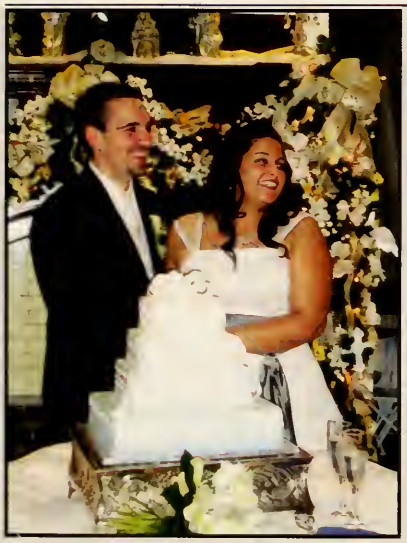
Matthew Dykema , D.O.

Thank you…Thank you to the countless many that have helped me along this path, for surely I did not arrive here by myself. Still certainly I have not yet arrived, for this marks just the beginning of my journey. There are still many places for me to go, many lives to be touched. I have not learned all that I need; rather a foundation for lifelong learning has been solidly laid. For learning does not occur in the confines of four walls, but in the experiences of daily life. While books may aid in the process of learning, the most valuable education comes from the people about which books may be written. I am grateful for the countless lives that have influenced mine and pray that I may also be an influence for others. I am indebted to all those who have helped me along the way: my friends and family who are always there, my parents for teaching me solid values and showing me how to live with integrity, my sister for reminding me that life is to be full of joy, my dear wife for showing me unconditional love and being my never ending source of support and encouragement; also my instructors, for imparting knowledge and understanding that can only come from years of experience; my classmates and peers for letting me know that I am not alone in this endeavor. Most of all I am thankful for the thousands of people from various walks of life, who have allowed me to participate in their medical care. It is the patients themselves who have taught me the most, and it is for them that I have endeavored to be a physician. Thank you.

Proverbs 16:9 – "A man may plan his own journey, but the Lord directs his steps."

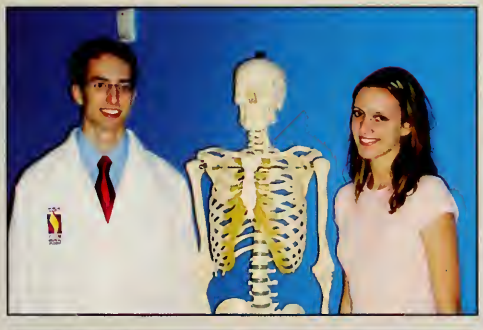
Matthew S. Dykema D.O.



Robert Bradford Abrahams, D.O.

For many of us, attending medical school was our lifelong dream—the culmination of years of hard work in preparation for our medical education. Now that the dream is fulfilled and the excitement has faded, I hope we look ahead toward the next chapter of our lives with the same vigor and awe we had when we first opened our letters from GA-PCOM that proclaimed "YES!" to our acceptances. We must never forget why we dedicated our lives to healing humanity and forever respect the influence we sway over the lives of our patients.

The past four years were challenging, but have been the best years of my life. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to my life and education over the past several years. Thank you to my mentors, professors, attendings, and fellow students for your guidance and words of wisdom. Thank you to my parents for supporting me and giving me opportunities to succeed. Thank you to my friends for making medical school the best time of my life. I have had a wonderful time getting to know you all and hope that the inaugural class of GA-PCOM will stay close forever. Thank you most of all to my wife Candice for putting up with me for the past ten years!

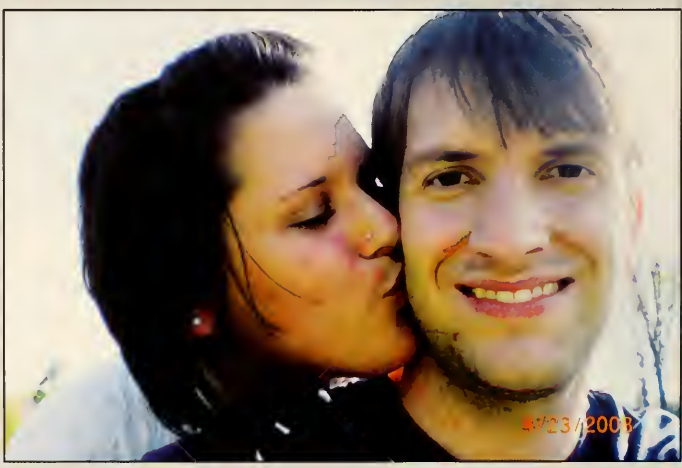


Wes Alexander, D.O.

To my parents: thank you for everything. Without your encouragement and guidance, I never would have made it to this point! I am truly blessed to have you both!

Stormy - I cannot thank you enough for all the support you have given me over these past few years. Thank you for being understanding and supportive through this process. I am so glad I had you through this journey and I am so happy to have you for this next journey also! I love you!

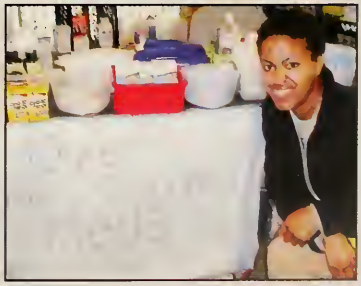
Wes Alexander, D.O.



Kahtonna Allen, D.O.

My Heavenly Father, The Great Physician…You implanted my desire, fueled my motivation, maintained my will, and saw me safely through. I never could have made it without you. Momma, my one and only, my friend… All the books you gave me as a little girl have paid off! Your tough love turned into my ability to accept criticism gracefully, reality checks teaching me to remain focused and your constant strive to learn has turned into mine as well. Thank You. Daddy, my first "patient", my hero… I will always look up to you. You will always be the strongest man ever. Your words are constantly replenishing my weary mind, "Be All You Can Be." I have and I will be. Thank You. Nisa, my sister, my treasure… It has been a gift to have grown with you all these years, to share a life of memories, and look forward to creating more. You have gone over and beyond your call of duty for me and deserve nothing less than to be blessed. Thank You. Ken, your patience, support and generosity has been priceless. Thank You. Crystal, your friendship is invaluable. I am excited about the day to sit back and reminisce about time that has passed and what we have outlasted. Thank You. Adrienne, my sister in Christ… thank you for helping me to know the power of prayer. Thank You. To those unnamed but not forgotten; Brian Fox, family and patients, friends and enemies, fellow classmates and attendings. Those that have prayed and stayed beside me in this journey. There is no measure of my gratitude to you all.

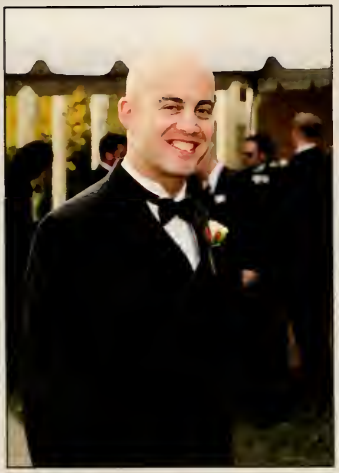
Kahtonna C. Allen, D.O



Brian Anderson, D.O.

I would like to thank my parents, friends, and mentors who have supported me along the way and allowed me to pursue my dream of being a physician. Additionally, I would like to thank Dr. Pat Spangler, D.O., who introduced me to Osteopathic Medicine and provided much encouragement during the application process. Medical school has been a great challenge and has not only allowed me to test the limits of my dedication, but it has also provided me with some great friends and colleagues. Thank you.

Brian D. Adams, D.O.



Naceme Azizzadeh, D.O.

To my parents: You both are the most precious people in my life. I truly believe this journey of becoming a doctor actually started during my 5th grade graduation when you held your breath in the H.E. Corley elementary school auditorium as they announced the students who had reached academic excellence. Dad, you taught me to believe that I could do anything I dreamed. You challenged and encouraged me to be the person I am today, and I am deeply humbled and forever grateful to you for being such a force in my life. Mom, you are truly are an angel to me. You comforted me as I waited by the mailbox for my acceptance letter to medical school and you have supported me all throughout my medical education. Thank you for your worries, prayers, laughter, and encouragement. My best times in life are when I sit to talk and laugh with you.

To Neda: My beautiful and talented sister, I cannot tell you how proud and privileged I am to see you grow up into a wonderful young lady. I could not ask for a better sister, and I am so happy that we become closer the older we get. I cannot thank you enough for you support and encouragement. I look forward to your inevitable success and truly wish you sincere happiness along the way. You and mom are my true best friends for life.

To Navid: My dear little brother, I have enjoyed and will always take pride in being your big sister. You are such a pleasure and always full of life. I am confident that your life will be full of success. Be good, study hard, and enjoy the ride.

To Kristine and Crystal: Thank you so much for being such dear friends to me throughout medical school. These last two years in Atlanta have filled me with wonderful memories that I will always cherish. I am so grateful for all the laughter and good times we have had. Thank you for putting up with my crazy school drama and never leaving me behind (literally)…because we all know I'm always running late.

To Jessica and ChiChi: You were the first roommates I have ever had. It was such a pleasure to spend the first two years of school with you. Thank you for all of your laughter and support. I wish you the best.

To the Class of 2009: Thank you for your friendships and good times. I congratulate you on your success and wish you the best in your future endeavors

Naceme Azizzadeh, DO

Jessica Balkema, D.O.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

My Dearest Husband, Casey: Thank you for believing in me when I found it difficult to believe in myself. Thank you for your understanding and sacrifices with my stressful schedule. I love you and can not wait to start your journey with you!
Mom and Dad: Thank you for all your prayers and love. I would not be who I am today if it weren't for the foundation you provided me. I love you!
The rest of my family: I would like to thank you for your love and encouragement. Thank you for having faith in me!
GA-PCOM Friends: We made it! There were days we sat in the "office" wondering how we would ever learn so much information. There were days we sat in prayer asking God for the strength to go on. Through it all we persevered and look at us now..... Congratulations to you all!
Angela: I would not have made it through the past 4 years without you. You were a great study partner, lunch date, confidant, and partner in crime. Thanks for being such a great friend! Good luck in all your endeavors.
The Best Roommates, Chi Chi and Naceme: Med school would not have been the same without the two of you. I will forever cherish our memories of paper airplanes, barns and overalls, and quacking ducks. You girls gave me much relief and support from the strains of studying. I love you girls!

Jessica L Balkema DO

Nazia Bandukwala, D.O.

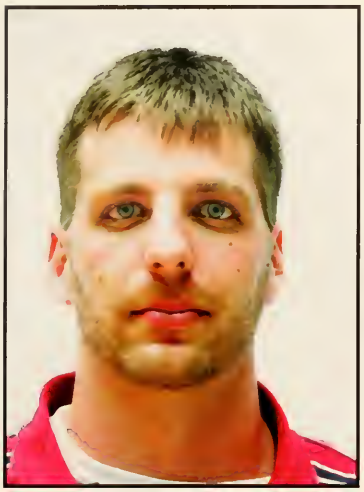
It's during our greatest challenges that we grow, when we are adjusting to transitions and becoming familiar with ourselves in the unknown. I constantly strive to be the kind of person that would make my parents proud of the person they brought into this world.

These last four years have been great; if you can't pee, call me!

Thanks Mom, Dad, Abbas and Fatema. Thanks GA-PCOM.

Nazia D. Bandukwala D.O.

Harrison Baucom, D.O.



I want to thank my wife Kori, whose patience and support ensures that she deserves this degree as much as I do. Remember I love you now and always.
–Harrison

Jacqueline Bohs, D.O.

To my mom, dad, sisters, friends, and future husband:

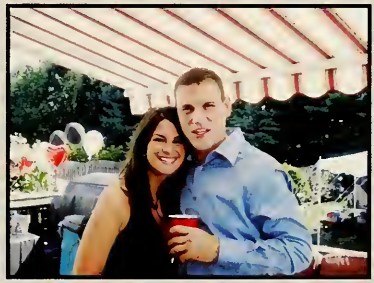
On this monumental occasion, I am so happy to share this accolade with those I love. Without your undying support and encouragement this milestone in my life would have been an unattainable goal. I look forward to serving others and hope that I can continue to give back to my family and friends for their unconditional love. I have achieved my lifelong dream and it has all been worth it!

Mom: I owe you all the praise in the world! You are my inspiration, my role model and everything that I aspire to be. Without you, I would never have thought my dreams could come true. I love you Mom, and thank you for everything!

Dad: You are my rock, my support system. No matter what the issue or how tough times get, your simple words fill me with the strength and determination I needed to do my best. With you as my father I am an unstoppable force! I love you Dad!

Justin: I can't even begin to express all the thanks I owe you. You are my world, without you there is nothing to celebrate. I love you more then words can describe. Thank you!

Jacqueline Bohs, D.O.



Liz Bradley, D.O.

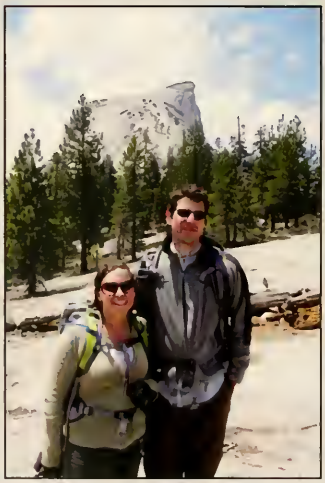
Embrace Reality

When you deny the reality of life, you appreciate it less. Consider the following and rediscover the magic of life just as it is.

I am of the nature to grow old.
There is no way to escape growing old.
I am of the nature to have ill health.
There is no way to escape ill health.
I am of the nature to die.
There is no way to escape death.
All that is dear to me and everyone I love
are the nature to change.
There is no way to escape
being separated from them.
My actions are my only true belongings.
I cannot escape the consequences of my actions.
My actions are the ground upon which I stand.

From: The Plum Village Chanting, by Thich Nhat Hanh

Elizabeth Bradley DO



Corey Brown, D.O.

I would like to thank the numerous family and friends that have helped me succeed in all my endeavors. I also would like to give a special thanks to my parents, who gave me the opportunity to become the person I am today. I will cherish the friendships I have made over the last four years with all my classmates and the staff at GA-PCOM. I would lastly like to thank the Lord above, for blessing and watching over me. May he continue to be with me as I continue in all my endeavors.

Crystal Bujold, D.O.

I have surrounded myself with my dearest friends and family. Without their ongoing love and support I would not be where I am today. My father and my mother's father are the most brilliant people I know. I will always try to succeed through their eyes. I cherish my grandmother's inner strength and I love that she always makes me laugh! My mother has a soft, gentle soul and I am thankful for our many talks in medical school…and the countless Starbucks gift cards she sent me! Thank you Alex, my only sister, with whom I grow closer with as each year passes. And thank you Ali, my very best friend…I love you like a sister.

I leave you with a few words on how I try to live my life. I didn't write them, but they sure touch my soul! "To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Crystal Bij D.O.

Rachel Burke,D.O.

had no idea when I began my training that I would meet so many wonderful people in the process. Thank you all so much…you know who you are. That said, I know we are all so excited to move on to the next phase and I wish each of you the best of luck. Each of us has our own path, but I feet that I should share a few of the intense diagnostic mysteries that I will focus on for the remainder of my career….enjoy!

Chief Complaints Heard Only in Pediatrics:

- Needs a circumcision, because his tonsils and adenoids are so big
- Sprayed hairspray all over bathroom - then threw up from smell
- Placed tooth under pillow - now lodged in right ear
- Drank the dog's milk - from the dog's nipple
- Sick as hell anemia
- Swollen asteroids
- Can't find baby's birthmark
- Cereal palsy
- Problem with his manlihood
- Scrap throat
- Baby is afraid of his hands
- Fell out of infancy
- Romantic fever
- Lump down his tentacle
- Needs a mental extraction

Rachel Burke DO

Kelly Byington, D.O.

To the Class of 2009: Thank you for the memories - the good times and the not so good times.

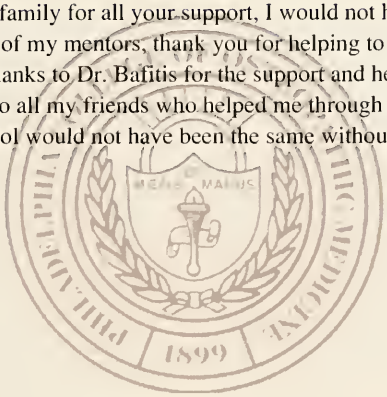
Congratulations and I wish you all the best.

"Experience is not what happens to a man; it is what a man does with what happens to him."

-Aldous Huxley

Kelly Byington, D.O.

Thank you to my family for all your support, I would not have made it this far without it. To all of my mentors, thank you for helping to push me toward my goal. A special thanks to Dr. Bafitis for the support and help in attaining my dreams. Thanks to all my friends who helped me through the good times and bad, medical school would not have been the same without you.



Terri L Carlson D.O.

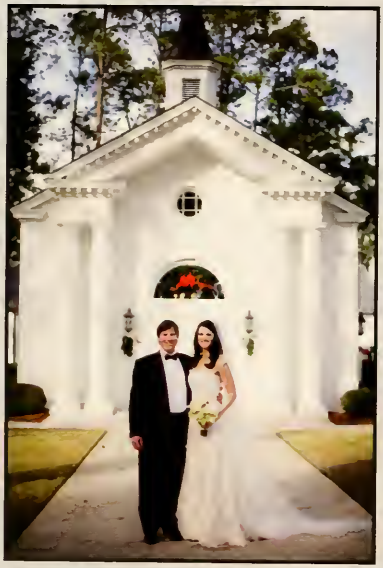
Chaltsy Carlton, D.O.

To my husband and family,
Words cannot adequately express my gratitude for the endless amount of love and support you have provided throughout these long years. Thank you for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself, and for never letting me settle for less than what you knew I was capable of. I couldn't have done it without your constant encouragement and unconditional love. Please know that I will forever be infinitely grateful to you. I love you!

To my classmates,
It's hard to believe four years have passed since we first came together. No one ever said it would be easy and I know that we all felt like we were barely keeping our heads above water at one time or another. However, if we had never struggled, we wouldn't have known what we were made of. What didn't kill us made us stronger, and none of us could have done it alone. I can say without hesitation that I am proud and humbled to stand with you on graduation day as we officially take on our roles as the physicians we fought so hard to become. Congratulations and good luck!

"The greatest mistake in the treatment of diseases is that there are physicians for the body and physicians for the soul, although the two cannot be separated."
~Plato

Chaltsy Carlton, D.O.



Tamika Carter, D.O.

Unselfish and noble actions are the most radiant pages in the biography of souls. ~David Thomas

It takes a great deal of support to get through four rough and tedious years of medical school especially when you are thousands of miles away from any family. So finally at the end of my medical school journey I would like to acknowledge those who have assisted me along this vigorous journey.

First and foremost. I would like to thank my heavenly Father for taking every step with me on this journey and providing the resources and people needed to succeed at this task.

Mommy. You have done so much for me. Words cannot describe the amount of sacrifice you have given and continue to give. You exemplify the definition of Mother. There is no doubt in my mind that I could not have made it without you. I love you.

Daddy. Thank you for giving me the knowledge and the will to continue on the medical school path. Your love of math and science exude in me. It is your foundation that has allowed me to excel. I love you.

Omar. Thank you for always believing in me. For always giving some form of encouragement even if you did not realize you did. And thank you for sending me those random quote text messages that cheered me up on the rough days. I hope you continue because there are more rough days ahead. I love you.

Grandma. Thank you for your strength and your faith in God. You faith was passed on to my mom which was then passed to me. You have been through a great deal throughout the last couple of years and yet you continue to have faith and strength despite all obstacles. You are an inspiration. I love you.

Silk. My darling cat. Thank you for living with me and putting up with me those days when I left early and came home late and there was no food in your bowl. I could always count on you to relieve those stress-filled days with your "little wet nose". I love you Kittygirl.

Other Family and Friends. Thank you for continuing to believe in me and support me when I returned to CA during those breaks. Thanks for calling and checking up on me. Thank you to all those friends who continued to be my friend despite the time I said I would call and forgot or the times when I did call and fell asleep on the phone. Thank you for keeping me up to date on the going's on in your lives to keep me grounded. I love you all.

Thanks and Congrats GA-PCOM class of 2009.

Tamika M. Carter D.O.

Stephanie Chapman, D.O.

To Cale: Wow. I would not be here today without your constant support. Thank you for putting up with all my hours of studying and for helping me achieve this dream! I love you!

To Jayna: Somehow, we made it! We've been to the ends of the earth and back. I would never have made it through these last four years without you. I will miss it dearly! We've gotta keep looking out for each other. (Not on my watch!)

To my family: You never lost confidence that I would reach this goal in my life. You believed in me when I didn't believe in myself! Thank you for all the support, love and prayers.

To my friends: Thank you for keeping me sane through these last four years. I love you all!

To the class: For many of us, four years ago we couldn't have envisioned this day. Through all the ups and downs, we still managed to pull this off! Congratulations!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jer 29:11

Stephanie Chapman, D.O.

Russ Churchwell, D.O.

To my Family and Friends,

We did it! I say that because this has been a joint effort from everyone. For four years I've been selfish in order to accomplish my lifelong dream. I could not have done this without you guys. Jessi, I know you will always be there for me. You have been with me through the hardest times of my life. I know it was not easy for either of us but we did it. Mom, I love you, you're the reason that I have never thought twice about chasing my dreams. Dad, you taught me the meaning of hard work. I'll never do less than my best. Boo, you're the best sister in the world. I'm proud of what you have become and I look up to you. Jacob, you are my best friend and always will be. Nannie and Datdad, what would I have done without the support? I miss the double-decker lunches already. I love you guys. Josh, I could not have done it without you. Hard times in a little room well spent. Chase, I love you girl. You already have my heart. It will be yours forever.

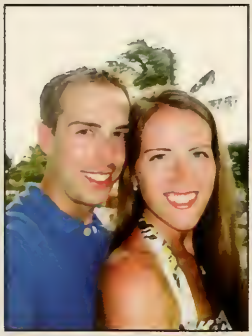
I love you guys,

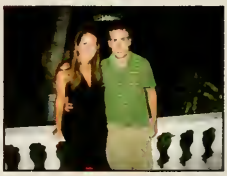
Russ Churchwell D.O.

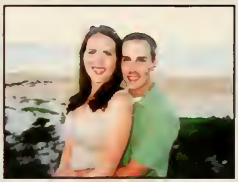
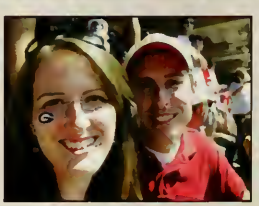
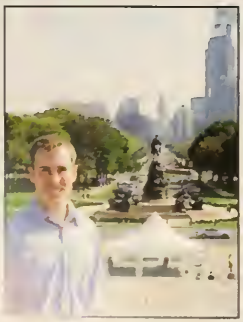
Brent Clower, D.O.

Medical school is the most challenging and rewarding thing I have ever done in my life. Many people supported me and helped me get through the tough times. I want to thank my GA-PCOM friends for suffering with me through the bad times and making me laugh during the good times. Thank you to my family for always being there to help out when I needed you. Thank you to my wife Jackie for putting up with all my studying the last four years. You are my best friend in the world and I love you so much. Last but not least, I want to thank God for giving me the ability and opportunity to experience medical school and helping me every step of the way.

Brent Clower D.O.





James Colvard, D.O.

Dear Dad, Mom, Jennifer, Cara, Evan and Dustin,

Thank you for all your love and support during these four years of medical school. Without all you I never would have made it through. Thanks for believing in me, even when I doubted myself! Thanks for making sacrifices even when times were tough. Thanks for not letting me give up, especially when I was struggling to pass my exams. Thanks for showing me over and over what true love is! I love each of you more than you can even imagine!

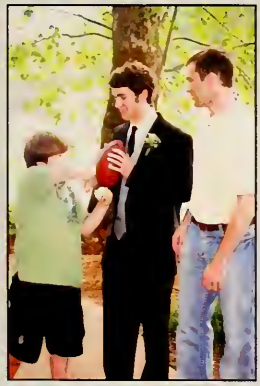
To all my teachers and mentors both here at GA-PCOM and in Montgomery,

Thank you for teaching, sharing, and leading.

To my fellow classmates,

We made it!

James P. Colvard D.O.



Johnny Abraham Dias, D.O.

To my family: Thank you for your constant love and support. Without your sacrifice this would never have been possible. I love you with all my heart.

To Jeannie: Your mother's request came through. I am lucky to have such an amazing person like you in my life. I love you!

To my classmates and friends: Congratulations! We have traveled a long and windy road together. It is through our GA-PCOM experiences that we are bound together. Good Luck on the next stage of your journey.

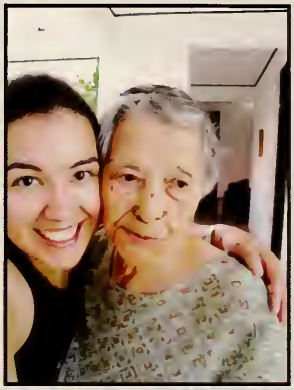
Johnny A. Dias D.O.

Vanessa Durand, D.O.

Thank you to all my family and friends who have supported and loved me unconditionally throughout this long road. It is through your strength that I gathered courage through the hard days; and it is through your love that I celebrate my victories. No words can describe how grateful I am.

Abuelita, eres el espiritu que me da alas. Te amo, siempre.
Momma, usted siempre estuvo alli para celebrarme y ahora es su turno para celebrar. Su hija es lo que es porque su madre es lo que es. Estoy tan orgullosa de mi madre.
Dad, thank you for always instilling in me the drive for wisdom and the "character" to achieve it.

"So if you want to do as artists do, go look at the red and white poppies with their bluish leaves, their buds soaring on gracefully bent stems. The hours of trouble and strife will know how to find us without our going to look for them."
Vincent Van Gogh



Karen Nicole Duvall, D.O.

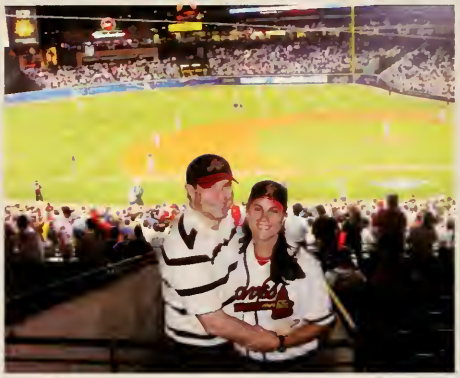
Jeremiah 29:11
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

First, I want to thank the Lord my God for giving me the passion and perseverance to follow this dream to become a doctor, one that He instilled in me from such a young age. It is by His grace and blessings that I have completed this journey and look forward to a rewarding career.

To my Dad, Mom, Brother, and Sister, thank you for always loving, supporting, and encouraging me to follow my dreams. Thank you for believing in me, even when I didn't believe in myself. Thank you for all your prayers and praises. Your daughter finally made it - I'm a doctor!

Finally, to my wonderful husband, Jonathan, I can not thank you enough for being there daily, through the ups and downs. You have played such an integral part of my success and I will always be grateful. It has truly been an incredible ride and I am so glad I got to spend it with my best friend, lover, and biggest fan! We did it! I love you!

Karen N. Duvall, DO



Samvid A. Dwivedi, D.O.

Here we are today
My fellow GAPCOMers.
From this day on,
We're no longer pretend-doctors.

Thousands of dollars,
A huge academic load;
Countless rotations,
And I still can't run a code.

I expect during internship,
To look like a complete fool;
But almost too much to bear
Were the indignities of med school;

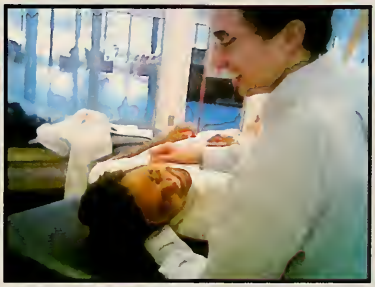
We're all MRSA colonized,
Have needle sticks galore;
Hairlines have receded,
Bellies bigger than before.

Puked, peed and squirted upon,
Our scrubs are an odd shade of brown;
Along with that short white coat and crocs,
We looked like a post-call Krusty the Clown.

Like lost Pirates of the Caribbean,
We didn't think we'd get too far;
We started off really lost in SPOM;
What's a retici-ici-aculum? Aarrrgh!

If it wasn't for family and friends like you,
I wouldn't have made it this far;
Thanks to family and friends like you,
I'm really starting to miss Choo.

Samvid A. Dwivedi D.O.



Kristen Etzkorn, D.O.

Mom, Dad, and Jeremy.
Thank you for your love and support.

D.O.

Angela Nicole Evans, D.O.

All of my life I have had the dream of becoming a physician. Now, this dream is reality. This would never have happened if I did not have the love and support of my parents who nurtured and encouraged my dream. From helping me with my elementary school homework to babysitting my kids so that I could study for the boards – THANK YOU!

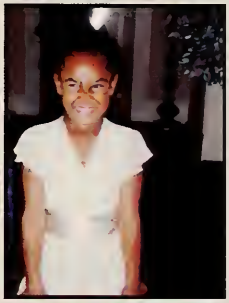
Nikoba, I love you so much! You have encouraged me to keep studying when I needed to but also gave me balance outside of medical school which has kept me sane! God couldn't have given me a better partner in life than you! THANK YOU for believing in me!

Kayla and Tyson, I thank God for the two of you every day! Your smiles keep me going. You both have so much potential and I only hope that God will provide me with the wisdom to nurture and support your dreams.

To Mama & Dad Campbell, Michelle, Grandma & Grandaddy Brown, Oma & Opa, all Aunties, Uncles, cousins, family & friends who have supported and prayed for me . THANK YOU – I LOVE YOU!

GA-PCOM Class of 2009
WE DID IT! CONGRATULATIONS!

Angela N. Evans, DO



Kristine Favila, D.O.

TO MY PARENTS, I am forever grateful for the sacrifices you have made for our family. I am here today because of your unwavering support and guidance in pursuing my career dream. I am truly blessed to have you as my role models from whom I learned the importance of integrity, grace, and compassion. I attribute my successes to your steadfast devotion to our family.

TO MY SIBLINGS, Michelle, Ian and Michael, growing up together has been quite the adventure. I am so proud of each of your accomplishments. Thank you for your love and support throughout the years.

TO MY EMORY GIRLS, I value our friendships which have only strengthened since college. I am so lucky to have such loyal friends. Thank you for all the laughter and memories. I look forward to countless adventures to come.

TO NACEME AND CRYSTAL, we have been through so much together in the past 4 years. Thank you for your advice, patience, and sense of humor. I will miss our late-night waffles, midnight Kroger runs, random make-over sessions, "innocent" bets, throwing the most unconventional parties (i.e. baby shower kegger!) and hanging out at the most amazing house in ATL.

TO MY CLASSMATES, we survived!! I cannot believe how quickly four years passed by and think the best of our class is yet to come. I wish you all success in your future endeavors.

Lastly I leave you with a quote I aspire to live my life by: "Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming – 'WOW – What a Ride!'" -Anon

Kristine Favila, D.O.

Amy Gessford, D.O.

This day is finally here and I am in shock. Never did I image that a dream since I was 12 would actually come to fruition. First and foremost, I have to thank my God who has been faithful even when I lacked the faith to carry on. He has taught me so much through these years about myself and himself. I will forever be indebted to him for blessing my life not only for this opportunity but for placing great friends and family to cheer for me along the way. Debbie Bjork, you are my long lost sister. I remember the day we met and the disdain we had for one another. I am glad I got over my selfishness and realized what a great person you are. I love you like a sister and know that you were a huge reason I made it through all the trials and tribulations all four years. I believe in you and know you will make a wonderful physician. My whole family including Rickey and Mavis, gave me encouragement and love when needed. I love all of you so much. All my friends I made here in Atlanta, you will never know how much you helped me grow spiritually and intellectually. Your friendships are priceless; I'll miss you next year. Lastly, Travis Fryman you pushed me when I needed it and kept me in Atlanta. I wish you were here to see me succeed but I know you are smiling from heaven. "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." II Corinthians 4:17-18

Amy Gessford D.O.

Lauren Giulitto, D.O.

To my family, friends and loved ones-

Thank you for your never ending love and support on the path to fulfill my dreams. I cannot imagine completing this journey without your encouragement and strength. I am truly grateful for your belief in me, not only as a physician, but as a daughter, sister and friend.

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."
-Henry David Thoreau

"The First wealth is health." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

Lauren Giulitto D.O.

Brendan Griffis, D.O.

Thank you to all of my family, friends, faculty, professors, residents, and attendings who served as a sounding board for my frustrations and a voice of encouragement during the past four years.

"I spent four years prostrate to the higher mind, got my paper, and I was free."

Brendan Griffis D.O.

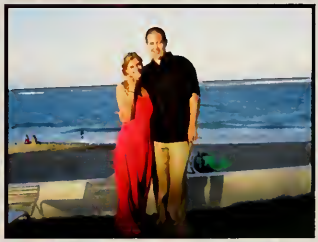
Dana Haake, D.O.

To my family, thank you for your love and support over the years. It is your encouragement that has made all my successes possible.

Dana Haake D.O.

Robert Hales, D.O.

I would first like to say thank you to God for all His blessings and allowing me to make it this far. Secondly to my better three-fourths Lins, thank you for all your support, for all the little things that bring joy to my life, and for putting up with my craziness. Infinity. To Mom, thank you for all the countless prayers you have said for me in this journey that I have been on and every bit of support you gave me. Vic, Isaiah and little Noah, thanks for being who you are and encouraging me along the way. John and Mary thank you for allowing me to marry Lins and for the support you gave me and taking me in as your son. To my classmates and friends, thanks for all the memories. I look forward to seeing all the great things the first class of GA-PCOM will accomplish.



Josh Hare, D.O.

I would like to first and foremost thank God for giving me the ability and the opportunity to complete medical school. I am so richly blessed beyond anything I could ever imagine. Thank you.

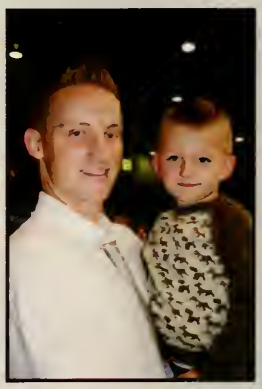
To my beautiful wife Ryan…Thank you so much for all your love and support during the last four years…I truly believe that having you in my life has made me so much more than I could have ever been without you…you are the best and I could not have picked out a better person to share this journey with. I love you and can not wait to see what the future holds for us.

To Cash and Taylor…I love you guys so much more than I could ever tell you. While most people might think that having two kids during medical school would be a distraction, I believe it turned out to be the exact opposite. You two were such a big reason for me to try and be better each day. I will always cherish getting to come home from school to our little apartment and see you everyday and how it would break up the vicious cycle that is medical school years one and two…Thank you so much for being such great children. Daddy loves you more each day and I can not wait to see what God has in store for you.

To my family…Thanks to all of you for all your support. I realize how fortunate we are to have such a close family and that is something that I will always treasure. I love you all and come visit us in Kentucky!

"Nothing splendid has ever been achieved except by those who felt something in them was superior to circumstance." –Bruce Barton

Josh Hare D.O.



Bryan Harrell, D.O.

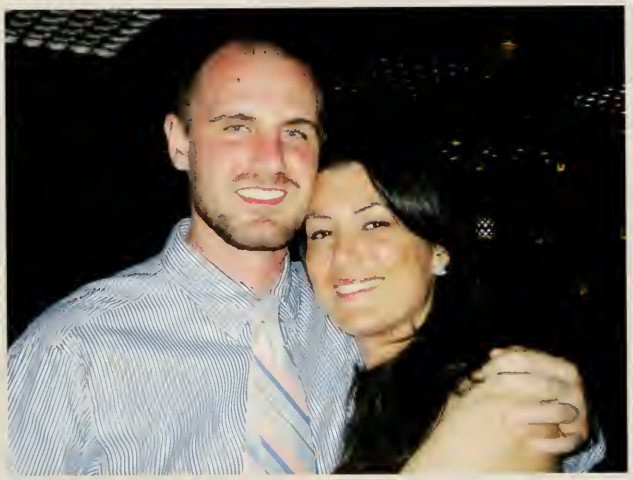
I would like to thank my beautiful wife for all of her support and allowing me to give up a good career to pursue my life long dream. I would also like to thank my parents for their unending support through this long process. Finally, I would like to thank all the people in my life who have supported me through this long process.

Bryan K Harrell, D.O.

Shane Huch, D.O.

Arriving from different places we all had our eyes on the same goal and were cognizant of the sacrifices that we would endure over the coming four years. One by one, the tireless hours that collectively culminated in this achievement have changed us in ways that will without doubt enhance the lives of others. Life will surely present a variety of different trials of our ideals and the field of medicine will evolve into something none of us may anticipate. Technological advancements will without doubt shift the current paradigms, enabling treatment modalities beyond our current comprehension. With this in mind, it is essential to embrace change while adhering to the intrinsic values which have led us to this point. We have been fortunate enough to possess the intellectual capabilities, determination and hope to reach this milestone in our careers, but without humanity, humility, and equanimity, our efforts will be inadequate. While we may overlook the gravity of the responsibilities which we readily accept in pursuance of our careers, we will impact countless lives in the years to come. In order to successfully navigate through an environment with such intense exposure to the human condition, it is essential that we care for ourselves and our own health to appropriately care for others. Ideas and approaches towards health care will surely change, but as physicians we will continue to employ our better efforts in serving our communities and tempering the suffering of our fellow man. Implicit in the achievement of this monumental task has been the unwavering support of my family whom I am eternally grateful to have and who has continually provided invaluable guidance and reassurance. My friends with whom I have shared countless good times will never be forgotten and should know that my ears and doors will always be open. Thank you to you all and may you continue to pursue whatever it is that will bring you happiness, remembering to enjoy the simplicities of life.

Shane Huch DO



Jefferson Hunt, D.O.

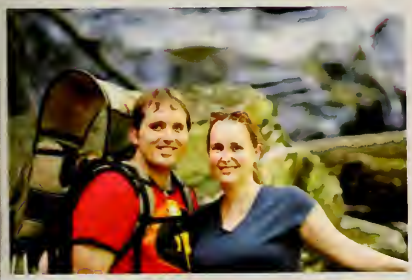
Lesley,
You are the most amazing eternal companion I could ever ask for. Thank you for all of your love and support. I could have never got here without your help. I know that I can conquer any obstacle as long as I have you by my side.

My Beautiful Girls,
Thank you for always making me feel like the best dad ever. I cherish all of the memories we have made together and I can not wait to make many more.

My Family,
Thank you for all of your thoughts and prayers. I knew someone was always thinking about me along the way.

"I never said it would be easy, I only said it would be worth it."

J. Hunt D.O.



Crystal Jacovino, D.O.

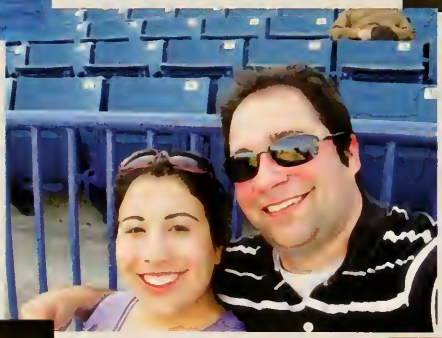
To Mom and Dad—Thank you so much for everything. You have given me so much support over my lifetime. I am so grateful for having such an amazing family who unconditionally loves and supports me. I am truly blessed to be your daughter.

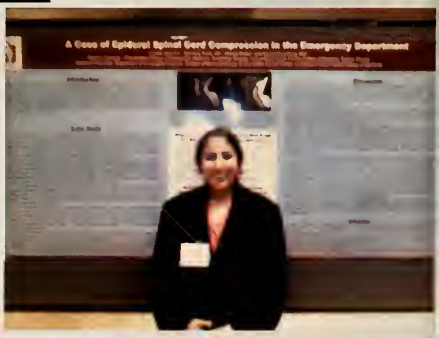
To Joe- You are an amazing brother and I am so lucky I have someone to talk shop with. I always felt encouraged to work hard to make you proud of me.

To all my friends- My favorite times these last four years have definitely been hanging out with you guys. From "working" at the library, going out in Atlanta and West Palm, to having girl time at the gym, you guys are the best! Thank you so much for all the fun and laughs we have all had, including all the wedding help. All you guys are the best and I wish you guys tons of luck in the future!

And to Doug—I am so happy that I have been able to spend the last six years with my best friend. You have been so amazing to me. I could not have gotten through these past four years without you. I love you so much and I am so excited that I will be able to start residency with my husband.

Crystal A. Jacovino D.O.





Adam Justice, D.O.

To my Azzie… thank you for being you, MY everything! Thank you for having faith in me, in us, and in our future. I love you more today than yesterday, and I will love you more tomorrow than today.

To my parents….thank you for ALWAYS taking care of me, for ALWAYS expecting more and for ALWAYS challenging me to be better. I can not begin to understand how much the two of you have sacrificed for me. I can only say that all I am, is because of you and hopefully this makes you proud. Thanks for being there. Love you!!

To Sis, Jarret, Will and Emily…thanks for not letting my head get too big and helping me keep things in perspective. Miss and love you.

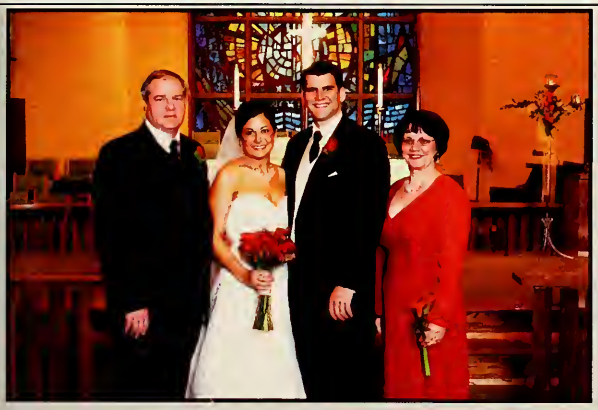
To my friends back home…they say you are who you surround yourself with. I'm so glad that s not true. Thanks for keeping it real, for believing in me, and for never letting 'AJ' go.

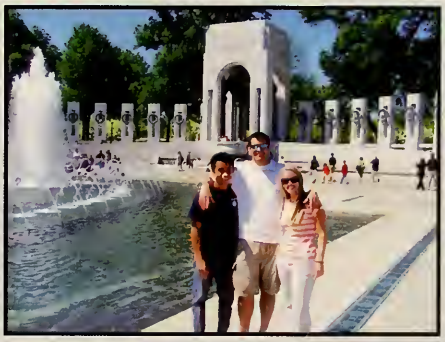
To the Class of 2009 GA-PCOM, Congratulations!! I wish you all the best and thank you all for sticking it out with me. And remember…

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Adam E. Justice D.O.





Johnathon Scott Kerns, D.O.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their support and unconditional friendship. Because I know without them I would not be where I am today in life.

Thank you Mom for your motivational speeches, listening all those nights on the phone and for always being available. Thank you Dad for working so hard your entire life to provide a great life for us and for being an inspiration to me by always furthering your education level. Thank you Grandma for your assistance with my education and for your prayers.

Thank you Brad and Samvid for being my two friends. You guys have been like brothers to me these past four years. We have had some incredible adventures together and I am confident our good times and strong friendship will continue throughout the years. Thank you Alpha Team (Brain Weingart, Raj, Anand, Charles, Brian Anderson and Shane) for the fun times and your friendship. Thank you Naceme for always putting the needs of the class first and having the courage to say what needed to be said. You have been an excellent SGA President.

Finally, I would like to sincerely wish everybody in the class of 2009 the very best with their residency and their future endeavors.

Johnathon S. Kerns, D.O.

Kiley Kolb, D.O.

Who knew such a long and curvy road would end so quickly. Thanks Mom and Dad for all the direction and toll money along the way. Both of you are my map and my inspiration.

To the Bank of Dad:
Thanks Bank of Dad for always being open. You have the best interest rates around... I know you are upset about your retirement, but I'm sure you'll find other endeavors.

Erik:
Thank you for all your love and support. You were there through it all, from staying up all night helping me study to listening to my non-stop stories from the hospital. I love you.

To the Inaugural Class of GA-PCOM… it's been real…a real learning experience. I hope each of us can and will use the gifts we have been given to make a positive impact in caring for the health of one another. Good luck to everyone on your travels.

Kiley Kolb D.O.

Suyin Lee, D.O.

The journey to become a physician has definitely been a long and challenging one, but it is definitely worth the time and now I am a D.O.!! All this would not have been possible without the support from my family members, friends, and the Almighty One.

To my husband, Seck: Thank you for your unconditional love and support. I could not have done it without you. You have given up a lot just in order for me to realize my dream. I sincerely treasure that and this is for you my love!

To my baby: I thank God for blessing me with you in my life. You are such a joy and whenever mommy has a tough time, I just need to look at your cute little face with those dimples and all things will be alright!

To Dad & Mom: Thank you so much for coming to the States and helping me out with whatever you can! My journey would have been much tougher had both of you decided not to leave home! I owe this to you and I hope I made both of you proud by being the first physician in our family!!

To my brothers and sisters: Thank you for believing in me and always telling me not to give up. Nothing is impossible as long as you set your heart to it! So, go for what you want! You can do it! "KITA BOLEH!"

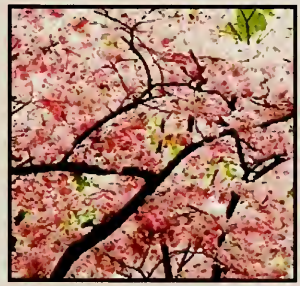
To all my friends: Thank you for your friendship and understanding. I could never live without your friendships!

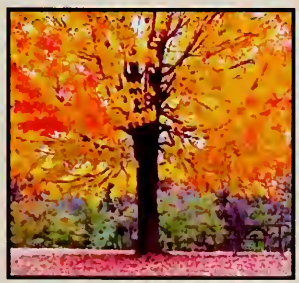
Last but not least: My God. I thank God for everything. Without your precious Words, I would not have done it. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil 4:13

Suyin Lee D.O

Like four seasons, four years, the course of medical school complete.

Nicole Markovich, DO





"Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished."
- Lao Tzu

Gina Mathew, D.O.

"There is an African proverb that says, If you are going to eat a toad, eat a fat, juicy one. Martin Luther said, When you sin, sin boldly… Run your life as though you're proud to be doing whatever you're doing. Don't coast. Don't flit and take the way which is easiest…Whatever you do, do it with all your heart, mind, soul and strength." - Unknown

To my parents, thank you for teaching me the true worth of a family. You raised me to appreciate the value of hard work and dedication, to always have a sense of responsibility in my words and actions and to never compromise my self-respect. Thank you for never placing an age or condition to your love and helping hand.

To my sister, who has such a bright future ahead of her...I am so proud of you! As you head forth into your own adventures and self-discoveries, I wish you only the best of what life has to offer, and know that I'll always be a home base for you.

To the dear friends I've made on this crazy ride through medical school, thanks for lending me a hand whenever I've needed it, and I hope I've done the same for you. As for all those lunch time conversations, we are the only ones who will appreciate the true irony of being labeled the "sewing circle" The best of luck to you all in the future

Gina Mathew, D.O.

Kirk Munsayac, D.O.

Special Thanks to:
...my Lord and Savior, whose work I will now do.
...my Father and mother for the inspiration.
...my family and friends for love and patience.
...and most importantly, my best friend, my wife Heather. Through her constant sacrifices I was not only able to chase this dream, but also was able to realize the exciting new dreams of our growing family.

Kirk Munsayac D.O.

Kristina O'Conner, D.O.

With gratitude and love

… to my family for their support, encouragement, knowledge, example of perseverance, and their unconditional love.

… to my friends for their laughter, motivation, open homes, and understanding of my erratic schedule.

… and to Shawn for his patience, support, hard work, love, understanding, and devotion.

Thank you
I love you all

Kristina W. O'Connor D.O.

Chinyelu Onyeka, D.O.

I just want to use this opportunity to thank everyone that has made this achievement possible. It has been a long tough road which would have been impossible to trod without God, my husband, family and friends.

First, to God Almighty who does immeasurably more than I can ever think, ask or imagine: Thank you for the impossibilities you made possible, the tears you turned into laughter and the stumbling blocks you turned into stepping stones.
My Husband, Chu: We made it!!!! Your love means so much to me!!! Thanks for standing by me and encouraging me. I am looking forward to more and more milestones together. I Love You Baby!
My Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Onyeka and Apostle and Mrs. Ofodile: Just want to thank you for all these years of support. I would not have been able to make it without your love, prayers, encouragement and support. I Love You!!!
Uncle Okey, Bill and Cecilia Maher and Aunty Ogo: You all calmed my deepest worries of finances during this journey. Thanks for co-signing my loans and for your individual gifts.
My siblings, other family and friends: Thank you all for being there for me, for understanding when I did not return calls on time or even call back at all these years and yet understanding my circumstances. I would not have made it through without such a strong network. May God bless you all!!!!

Chinyelu N. Onyeka, DO

Jayna Patel, D.O.

I always dreamt of becoming a doctor. It is hard to believe now that dream is about to become a reality; this part of my journey will soon come to an end.

I am eternally grateful for the unconditional support I have had along the way.

To my parents, I can not imagine how you dealt with the endless emotional roller coaster that was the last four years. I am so blessed to have two loving people in my life that have always been proud of me and care so much about my happiness. I never could have made it this far without you.

To my sister, Kavita, I will miss you so much next year. I know you quietly worry about me. Your thoughtfulness and kind gestures have never gone unnoticed. You are so much more than a sister to me. I am so proud of you and all that you have accomplished. I can not wait to see what lies ahead of you. If you learn anything from my example let it be this: the most important thing in life is passion. I truly believe if you find something you believe in and are passionate about you will find success with happiness.

To my grandparents, thank you for always believing in me and for teaching me to never give up. I only wish all of you could be here to see me now.

To my friends, those of you who have stuck by me through this endeavor truly understand me. You have been so patient with my constantly changing priorities and yet remain on the sidelines cheering me on. I must have done something right to have kind souls such yourselves in my life.

Jayna Patel, D.O.

Rina Patel, D.O.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my parents for being my foundation and guiding me through the best of times and more importantly, through the worst of times. Since day one at REL Academy, I knew I could always rely on having them there when I needed them for anything and everything. Without their encouragement and support through the years, I definitely would not be where I am today. Thanks for being the best parents ever, Mom & Dad!

To my lovely sisters:

Bhavini, best of luck to you as you finish up your last year of pharmacy school. I know it has been a tough road for you as well. But I promise you, the end is near and the light at the end of the tunnel does indeed exist. (Also, thanks for being so nice and letting me live with you when I rotated in Charleston.)

Nisha, what can I say? My little sister is all grown up and will have a real job before me! All nursing jokes aside, I am VERY proud of you! Your independence, initiative, and headstrong tendencies are all things that will serve you well. I may be hundreds of miles away in person, but I'm always here for both of you whenever you may need me!

To my fellow GA-PCOM friends:

Thanks for all of the memories we've shared over the past 4 years. The GA-PCOM experience would not have been the same without you all. May 17, 2009 seemed like a day that was eternally far away, but we made it! Good luck to all of you as we continue our journey through residency.

Last but certainly not least, God. Thank you for always pointing me in the right direction. I know I've been a tough one to handle, but I am truly thankful for everything I am blessed with!

Rina Patel D.O.

Trupti Patel, D.O.

To Mom, Dad, and Dharmay,

We're finally finished! Thank you for believing in me. You are always keeping my health and well being first. Dharmay, you make it so easy to be proud of you. Thank you for all of your advice and for taking care of our parents. We have learned to become an even tougher family these past four years. You have taught me to persevere and have allowed me to follow every dream. You have never denied me any opportunity. Because of you, I have met people that will remain life long friends and have been able to see places that you may never have the chance to. You have and continue to sacrifice so much for your children's success. I hope to prove that it was worth it. This is for you.

To my dear friends and sisters,
Thank you for your support and countless number of hours on the telephone. Crises always seem to happen when we are not together. Without you, my life would be without spontaneous laughter.

"Passion will make you crazy, but is there any other way to live." – Howard Hughs

Trupti Patel, D.O.

Trushnaa Patel, D.O.

Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not, but remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for.
~ Epicurus

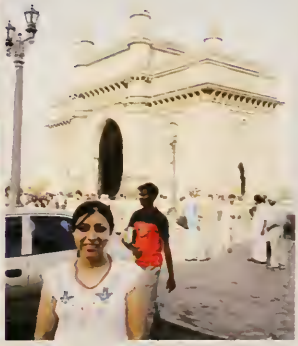
Thank You. . .

God for all your blessings, which allowed my dreams to come true.

Mom and Dad for your unconditional love, support and sacrifices you have made for me. Thank you for having immense faith in me.

My sister, Twinkle, and my brother, Akshar, for allowing me to be a guide to you both. I am truly proud of your accomplishments and am confident that you will continue to achieve many more.

Trushnaa V. Patel D.O.



Jared Pikus, D.O.

I would like to thank my wife for all her patience, excitement, endurance, and support, and to Him above for answering my prayers!

Steven Pinckney, D.O.

Deepest thanks goes out to…

God Almighty, for creating us in your image, and giving us minds that can know you. Thank you for giving us redemption from sin, rescuing us from death, and for the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ. You are the remedy.

My best friend and wife, Sarah Emily. without your help, I could not have had such a wonderful medical school experience. You never signed up to be an OMM training partner, and you never imagined how many notebooks or 3 x 5 cards I would use up – but you fill me with pride and joy at the way you supported my education and provided for our family. You are amazing.

My parents, Fred and Becky, for your love and sacrifice. It will impact our family forever. You are wonderful.

My brother, Andrew, for your hard work and determination that is such an example to me.

My grandparents, for all the exhortation and all the questions.

Liz Roe and Nicole Tong, for sitting on my left and right for two years, and dealing with all my baggage.

Adam, Kirk, Jake, and Brent, my wild at heart brothers, for our second year fellowship.

Brian Fox and CMDA, for Honduras and witnessing the power of prayer.

Edward Goljan, for encouraging us to be thinking doctors.

Steven B. Pinckney D.O.

Anand Rajani, D.O.

Harshada, you are my inspiration.

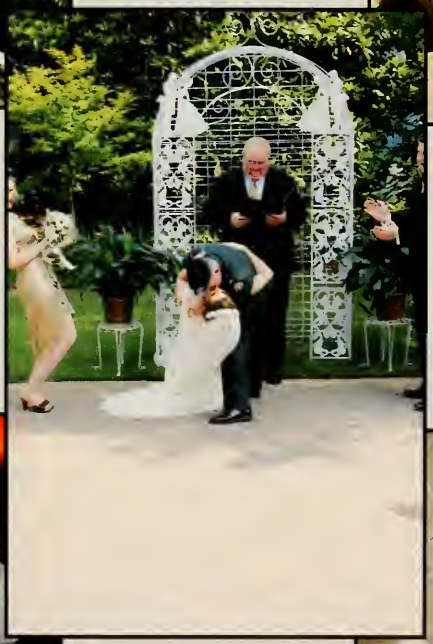
Mom and Dad, you have always supported and been there for me and I will never forget it.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. I couldn't have done it without you.

GA-PCOM, it's been a fun ride.

Samuel Ralston, D.O.

Thanks first and foremost to my lovely wife, Tammy, for bravely marrying both a soldier and a medical student, for putting up with me while I studied for the boards, and for driving me up to Philly to take the PE. Thanks next to my parents for the love and support on my long road here, and for not disowning me after I joined the Army instead of going to medical school after college. Thanks especially to Jona, first among dive-buddies since 2001. Finally, in no particular order, thanks to all those at GA-PCOM who relaxed some deadlines so I could get my application in from Baghdad, to my class who put up with me (more or less) while I became re-acclimated (more or less) to civilian life, and to all my buddies who made that possible. I will leave you all with one word: omofecal.



David Rundell, D.O.

I think what I have learned most clearly in medical school is the importance of time and reflection.

Thank you to GAPCOM and all of my instructors for showing me how much information I should remember and how to push my limits further.

Thank you to my friends at school for making my time spent there more enjoyable and a little bit less like prison.

Thank you to my wife Amy, son Max, and daughters Molly and Marly for providing me an outlet outside of medical school. It helped to have a constant reminder that there is life outside of the school and the hospital. I realize that the time I spend with my family is the most precious of all.

David Rundell, D.O.

Judd Salamat, D.O.

To my family - thank you for your understanding, patience, and endless support. Mom and Dad, I hope moving thousands of miles from home is starting to pay off. My brothers and I truly appreciate all that you continue to do for us. JP and Jonathan, thanks for being my best friends as well as my brothers and for always being there for me.

To my old friends - I wouldn't be who I am today if it weren't for you. Thanks for rarely asking me about school and helping me stay "normal."

To Kelly - you are the best thing to happen to me during all of this. Thank you for all the incredible adventures and for keeping me focused and smiling.

To my classmates - these past four years could not have been more enjoyable and exhilarating, nor could they have been more challenging and trying. Yet, I cannot imagine sharing these experiences with a finer group of people. I wish you great success and happiness, and I thank you for all the fond memories.

Judd Salamat D.O.

Tiffany Sanders, D.O.

Wow, this day could not have come any sooner! I just feel fortunate to have had such a strong support group along the way. God has blessed me tremendously with his favor, and for that I am thankful. If I could, I would give half of my diploma to my wonderful parents because they have supported me in every imaginable way during my training. Additionally, I would like to thank my loving siblings Louranda, Tina, and Louis who have also contributed greatly in various ways to the status I now hold. Last but not least, I would like to thank my extended family members, mentors, friends, and my BFF Jacquetta Reid for all of the favors, love, and encouragement given to me along the way. I will continue to strive for excellence and make it my mission to serve my future patients to the best of my ability. I wish the best to all of classmates as they follow their respective journeys in medicine.

Tiffany N. Sanders, DO

Jeannie Schumpert, D.O.

As this journey comes to an end, there are many people who I would like to thank for your love, commitment, and guidance towards my goal. I would like to say Thank You to my family, friends, and mentors. It is because of all of you that I am where I am today. Most of all I would like to say Thank You to my mother. You are my rock and my inspiration, and I love you with all of my heart. You are the reason that I am the woman who I am today, and without you I would never have made it this far. I would also like to thank God for sending me the love of my life while I pursued my goal, he is absolutely amazing. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have had this experience, and I am proud to be a part of the Osteopathic profession.
PS I cannot leave out Uncle Sam. Without you, I would be broke and trying to figure out how I am going to pay back all of these loans.

Jeannie L. Schumpert, D.O.

Belinda Schwartz, D.O.

Thank you to all my fellow GA-PCOMers. I cannot imagine getting through this whole experience without you!

Thank you to all my other friends who cheered me on along the way!

And to my family, thank you for your support and your unwavering faith in me. I know you gave everything you could to help me achieve my dream of becoming a physician and you know I love you.

Douglas Schwartz, D.O.

To my family—Thank you for all the support I've been given over the last four years. From my victories to my low points, I have been able to count on you to listen to what I had to say with a sympathetic ear. I would not have been able to get this far without you all.

To my friends at PCOM—While we may all be going our separate ways, I know I have met some of the people who will end up being my closest friends while in Georgia. There is something to be said about putting people together in a stressful situation, and how that can create friendships, and the first four years of GA-PCOM were no different. I am truly honored that three of my friends from my class will serve as bridesmaids in my wedding. It means the world to Crystal and me.

And to Crystal—We have become so close over the last four years, that we have more or less created our own language. I love the feeling of knowing someone so well I usually know what they are thinking before they know it. Look mom, I married a doctor! I cannot wait to begin my residency, and I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to enter my career as a physician with my wife by my side. I love you.

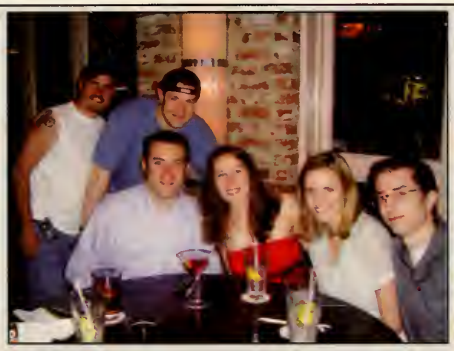
Creighton Edward Shute, D.O.

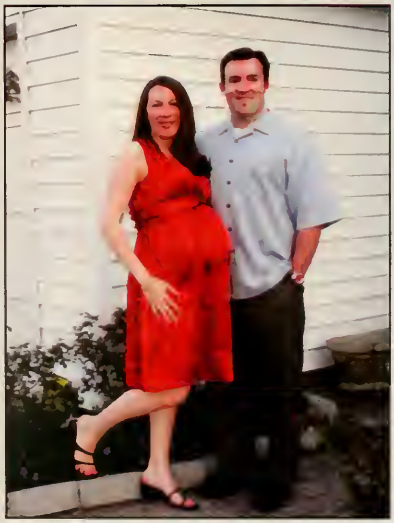
Thank you to my wife and best friend Jennifer. Without your love and support I would not be where I am today. Thank you to my parents for teaching me the value of hard work and commitment. Thank you to all of my family and friends for your encouragement, guidance, and support through the years. Thank you to my classmates for sharing this incredible experience with me.

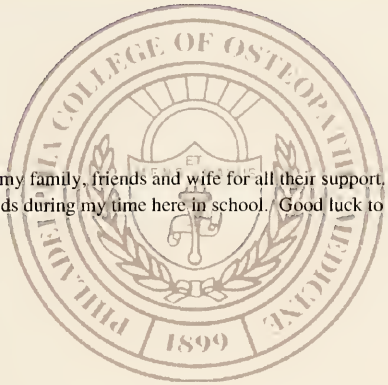
Our Deepest Fear
Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone, and as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.
—Marianne Williamson

If you are reading this, you have yet to make manifest the glory of God that is within you. Go out and accomplish something brilliant.

C Shute DO



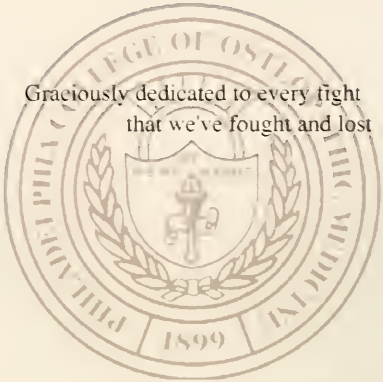




I would like to thank my family, friends and wife for all their support. I am lucky to have made such close friends during my time here in school. Good luck to all of us in our future.

Rajiv Sood D.O

Joshua Stephens, D.O.



Graciously dedicated to every fight
that we've fought and lost

Joshua Stephens D.O.

Sean Stuart, D.O.

There is not near the space to even begin to thank everyone who has helped me to get to where I am today. I never the less extend my sincerest appreciation to each and everyone of you.

To my parents: Through the past 27 years of life and 21 years of school, hardly a day has gone by that I haven't relied on you. From thousands of practices and games, countless "last-minute" projects and numerable trips to deliver forgotten items, it goes without saying that I may not have gotten near this far without you. You have always been overwhelmingly supportive in everything that I have done. No matter the situation I always knew I could count on you for help, count on you to be there and count on you to ensure I always had everything I needed and every opportunity to succeed. The value of time, money and energy you have invested in my future is a debt I cannot begin to repay. To my fellow classmates of 2009: Not even other medical students can truly appreciate the "adventure" which was our last 4 years. Congratulations and I wish each of you the best of luck.

Sean Stuart D.O.

Sabrina Sumner, D.O.

By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.

-Confucius

To my family….thank you for the endless support and motivation (especially at 5 in the morning when helping me locate sample SOAP notes!). Thanks for putting up with my stuff all over the place and the constant moving around. All of you have helped shape the person I have become and I am so grateful you were my examples. I love you.

Congrats to our class…this feels so great to be done. Good luck in your endeavors.

Sabrina Sumner, D.O.

Nicole Tong, D.O.

Life often takes you to unexpected places, places that you would never imagine. It just seems like yesterday that I stepped into this brand new campus and met my classmates and future colleagues on orientation day. During the past four years, I have found lifetime friendships and a calling that would forever enrich my life. May 17th 2009 marks the end of medical school, but it also implies the beginning of another stage of life which will be filled with dedication, sacrifice and fulfillment.

With much love and gratitude, I would like to thank…

My parents, who are always supportive and loving,
My sister, who knows exactly when to give me a shoulder to lean on,
My classmates, who have gone through hard times with me in med school,
My friends, who understand and forgive when I cannot hang out at times,
My mentors, who have shown me what medicine is really about.

I sincerely wish everyone great success in their future!

Nicole D.O.

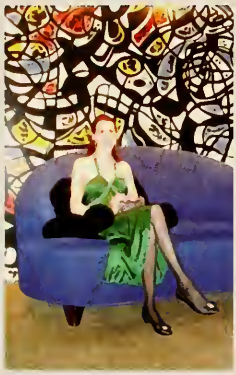
Kelly Truesdale, D.O.

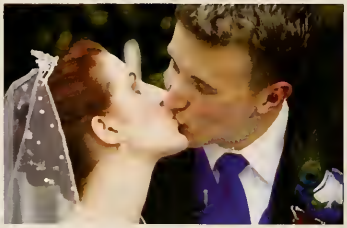
To my parents: I would like to thank you for all of your love and support over the last few years and throughout my life for that matter. You always told me that I could do anything that I wanted if I put my mind to it, and I'm so happy that I took your advice. Your advice has NEVER steered me in the wrong direction! I'm happy to know that I can still come to you for advice on all matters and always know that your advice will be taken to heart! Thank you for your encouragement and loving praises throughout my life. You truly are a part of the woman that I've become! I will always be grateful to you for everything in my life! All the sacrifices that you've made for me have finally paid off! Thank you for teaching me the importance of perseverance! I LOVE YOU!

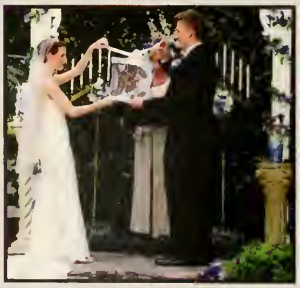
To my dearest husband: Brad, you have made me the happiest woman in the world for being in my life! You are my best friend and my soul mate! You and my parents have helped me believe in myself more than I ever could have done on my own! You have been an incredibly important part of my success and have made me a better person by being in my life. I remember that our journey together began just a few short years ago, and it's been a fairy tale come true ever since! I'm so lucky to have found you!!! You truly are a dream come true! I LOVE YOU!

Love Always,
Kelly

Kelly Truesdale, D.O.







Katina Tsagaris, D.O.

With deepest appreciation to my family for their constant generosity, love, and support through my medical school years and always. I am so thankful to have such wonderful role models in my life who have demonstrated daily their sacrifices to help my career goals and dreams become a reality. To my sister Maria, I love you more than anything and thank you for being my best friend and biggest cheerleader. The friendships that I made during my medical school years are ones that I know I will have for a lifetime and our laughs, lunches, nights out after exams, trips, and celebrations together have made these busy years so enjoyable. I wish you all continued success in residency and the future!

Katina Tsagaris DO

Joe Tzong-Jyh Huong, D.O.

Love and Appreciation…

…to my parents, who have always been there when I needed them, standing beside me with patience, never asking anything in return, and sacrificed to give more than I could ever possibly give back.. I do what I do from me in your honor... I love you both very much.

…to my brother, whose kindness and strength, even in difficult times, brightens my way in reflection of the past, to seize the present, and to envision the possible future... I could not have asked for a better brother.

…to all my good friends, past and present... I thank you for believing in me and encouraging me to strive for my goals even in times of doubt.

"I hear and I forget; I see and I remember; I do and I understand." – Confucius

Charles Ussery, D.O.

I would like to say a special thanks to:
My wife, Melissa, I could never thank you enough for all your love and support through the years, I love you very much…
My awesome children..Alycia, Ashlyn, Aubrey and Aden: we made it! Daddy loves you.
My mom, Ann, my biggest fan from the start thank you for everything…
My brother and sisters, Crystal, Angie, Andy and Jennifer, for all the crazy times.
My Granny and Aunt Dolly for helping through the tough times…
My other mom and dad, Cheryl and Tony, for helping us "Walk the Line"
My Uncle Larry and Aunt Grace for all your love and support…
The high school boys..Mark, Ben and Calvin for all the years of fun…
My teacher and mentor, Mrs. McCarty for pushing me to succeed…
Alpha team Brian, Anand, Samvid, Raj, Johnathon and Brad..you guys ROCK!!!
The EMS gang, Proctor, Shaq, Norman, and Ward for having faith in me…
Our new Atanta family, Javier "My brother" and Blanca…
A great man and friend, Jim Billings for always being there for me…
Anyone I may have forgotten: sorry medical school fried my brain…
I love you all!

DO

Neha Verma, D.O.

I want to thank my mom and dad, Rajani and Yashwant for always being there to support me and to encourage me to always do my best. My brothers, Neeraj and Hiten with Nidhi, my sister-in-law, who were always there when I needed some stress relief. My significant other, Vinnie, who stood by me, loved me and always looked out for me.

My grandparents whose blessings helped me become the person I am today. To my GA-PCOM friends, some of who are going to be my good friends no matter where we are in our lives, we will always be there for each other. And finally, thank you to everyone at GA-PCOM for helping make this dream a reality.

Tuition for Medical School: Expensive!
Studies, Rotation, Books and Labs: Stressful and Time Consuming!
Social Life: Non-Existent!
Becoming a Doctor: PRICELESS!!

Neha Verma D.O

Gopi Vora, D.O.

I do not come from a touchy-feely family, but I want to take this moment and express my gratitude for the love that my family has shown not only for the past four years, but throughout my entire life. In the great words of the Plain White T's – "there is only 1 thing 2 do, 3 words 4 you … I Love you!" To Mom & Dad, I wish there was a word that could describe everything you have done. To you it was your duty, but you both sacrificed more than I think I will ever do for my kids. Thanks for never giving up on me even when I was ready to give up. Thank you for teaching me to see the silver lining behind every cloud. I want to thank God for staying beside me and believing in me, even when I lost my belief and trust in you.

My dearest Dada and Ba, your blessings and prayers have helped me reach my goal. I dreamt of becoming a doctor because of you and it was attained with your confidence in me. To my two gorgeous, intelligent sisters Jankididi and Krishna, I have one word for you both! Thanks. You both encouraged me and supported me. I looked forward to discussing everything at school with you and the daily pep talks, after all the whining I did.

I want to thank all my GA-PCOM friends, especially Suyin, Kahionna, Chichi, Sanders and Carter. You ladies were there for me from day one of med school! I will miss spending time with you guys in the library and just hanging out.

Thank you Lori, Dr. Evans and Dr. Craver and all the faculty, not to forget Aisha and Markell!!!

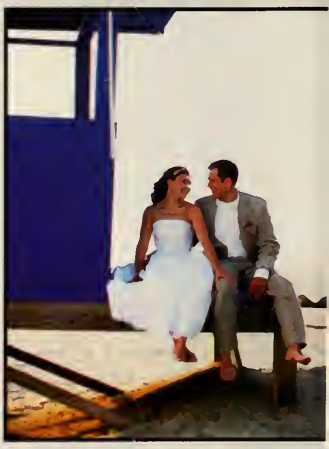
Gpvora D.O.

Jonathan Wade, D.O.

Ok…so I have to figure out what to write in here to recap my memories and experiences while riding this roller coaster call GAP-dot-COM. I went hunting for inspiration and came across a great quote from Dr. William Osler that seems to sum up all I have learned, and all that I aspire to learn in my future medical education:

"One finger in the throat and one in the rectum makes a good diagnostician."

Now I'm not sure whether the fingers go in the patient's mouth and rectum or my own, but I guess that's what residency is for. I'll close this out with a little story from a patient that reminds me of why family medicine is the specialty for me. During an inpatient encounter I was talking with an elderly gentleman of 90 years who was a very proud member of a hunting club in the small town. I asked him about some of his fondest memories of hunting expeditions from his younger years. "Well, back in 1944 I was big game hunting in Africa with a few friends. We weren't having much luck at all, but one day while I was sitting under a tree, I heard a rustling in the nearby bushes. All of a sudden, this big lion jumps out and roars at me, 'ROOOAAARRR!!!' Well I just $*&# my pants." Humorously, I replied, "I don't blame you. I'd $*&# my pants too if a lion jumped at me like that." Begrudgingly, the old man just shook his head, saying, "No, no, no, son…not then…just now when I said 'ROOOAAARRR!!!'"



Jacob Watters, D.O.

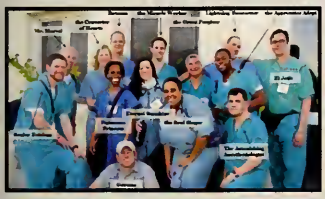
Born in Jackson, TN in 1980, raised in the Pan-handle of North Florida (Perry), and transplanted to Middle Georgia in 1996, Dr. Jacob William Watters had an interesting four years during medical school. After establishing the Alpha Class of the Georgia Campus of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (along with 86 or so other fine medical students) which opened in August of 2005, our young Dr. Watters ventured to Louisiana to help with reconstruction and clean-up efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

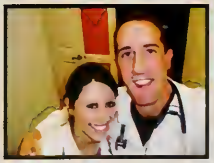
His Christmas holidays of 2006 were spent with his brother, Josh Watters, trekking the jungles of Costa Rica, celebrating life in San Jose with Momma Tica and Vanessa Durand, and ringing in the new-year latino style complete with yuka salads, Imperial cervezas, dancing girls, and the infamous trio known as "Los Servicios de los Gringos".

Later in 2007 our handsome, aspiring family physician would be found near the northern cost of Honduras in Tela as part of Global Health Outreach's medial mission trip to the Central Americas.

His third and fourth years were spent traveling around the southern United States for various rotation opportunities some of which included Florida Hospital in Orlando, FL, St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN, and even the quaint office of Dr. Steven Daugherty, D.O. at Catoosa Family Medicine in Ringgold, GA. Highlights of his medical errareties and interests included scandalous ER x-rays, advanced pyoderma gangrenosum, lip enlarging angioedema, and the wonders and complexities of plastic surgery with Dr. David Whiteman, M.D.

Jacob Watters D.O.





Brian Weingart, D.O.

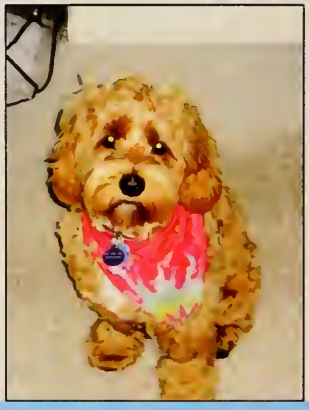
I would like to thank my wonderful parents and family who have always believed in me and stuck by me through every challenge. Your guidance and support has never gone unrecognized during this difficult but rewarding journey.

My wife and soul mate Jaime, I could not have done any of this without your constant love and support- We did it!

To my friends and colleagues, what a long strange but amazing trip it has been! Good luck to all of you.

Alpha team lives on forever!

Brian M. Weingart D.O.



Jennifer Woodward, D.O.

I want to thank my family and friends for supporting me throughout these last four years....I would not have made it this far without you!

Thanks Mom and Dad for letting me vent my frustrations and for providing continuous encouragement and love.

Thanks to all my friends and roommates for great memories and I will cherish our new friendships.

Jennifer Woodward DO

From the Editors Desk.....

PCOM CLASS OF 2009: Thank you so much for putting up with the emails, texts messages, and phone calls that were made in order to get this project done in a short period of time. If it were not for your quick responses we would never have made it.

CASSIE SHINKLE: Thank you for all of the time and effort that you put forth in making this yearbook a reality. You got to meet the class of 2009 through pictures and you worked on this yearbook as if it was your own. Thank you so much and good luck with your future endeavors.

KRISTINE FAVILA: Thank you for all the time you gave in designing this yearbook. You saw how anxious I was and starting helping with no hesitation. This book would not have happened without you.

BRAD ABRAHAMS: I know I kind of threw this in your lap, so thank you for not throwing it back at me. You did an awesome job in designing the templates and your knowledge about this process was priceless.

SAMVID DWIVEDI, CRYSTAL BUJOLD, JOHNATHON KERNS: I can not thank you enough for spending the last few days before deadline editing each and every page. Samvid, thank you for putting up with my attention to detail and sorry that Choo and your sombrero picture did not make it in the cut. Crystal, thanks for staying up till 2 am editing and formatting. Johnathon, I appreciate your patience, excellent grammar skills, and laughs. Thanks for all of your time.

OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS, PATIENCE MASON and AISHA DEBERRY: Thank you for trusting us and encouraging us throughout this process. All of your help made this project a reality.

BUFFIE GIDEON: Thanks so much for finding us phone numbers, making calls, editing, and giving us your time. Your generosity is truly appreciated.

ANDY JACKSON: Thank you for finding all those old pictures and getting them to me so quickly. I am grateful for your time and effort.

This yearbook was a huge undertaking and if it were not for all of you it would not have been possible. I enjoyed having the opportunity to do this one last project for the Class of 2009. I hope this book brings back cherished memories each time you look at it.

Thank you all,
Naceme Azizzadeh
GA-PCOM Class of 2009